

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER, 1935.

Vol. VI—No. 7

OFFICIAL REPORT



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 25th September, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir, Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS BELONGING TO THE UNTOUCHABLE CLASSES IN THE DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

653. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) what special provision they have made for the employment of persons belonging to the untouchable classes in the departments under the Government of India ;
- (b) if they have reserved any fixed proportion for them ; if not, why not ;
- (c) whether any instructions are issued to the heads of departments in this respect, and if so, what they are ;
- (d) if the Special Officer appointed to watch the progress of the employment of minorities, will also watch the progress made by the untouchable classes in this respect ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). The untouchable classes are treated as part of the depressed classes for the purpose of communal representation in the services. The orders that apply to them are contained in paragraphs 3 and 7 (1) (vi) of the Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, and in paragraph 1 of the Home Department Office Memorandum No. F. 14/6/34-Ests. (S.), dated the 15th May, 1935, which has been placed in the Library of the House. Paragraph 3 of the Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, explains why no definite percentage of vacancies has been reserved for them.

(d) The Special Officer will watch the progress made by the depressed classes, which include untouchables.

FREE PASSES FOR THE INFERIOR SERVANTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

654. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether inferior servants on State Railways are given the same concessions as regards free passes on the line on which they are employed and on other lines, as is given to the men belonging to subordinate service ;
- (b) if there is a difference what it is and why it is made ;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the question of extending the facilities given to inferior servants in the matter of supply of free passes ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) to (e). The practice as regards pass concessions on the line to which an employee belongs varies on different railways. I lay a statement on the table giving the information available.

The Railways over which differences exist as between inferior servants and subordinates are being asked to consider their elimination.

The issue of foreign line passes is a matter for mutual arrangement between railways under rules framed by the Indian Railway Conference Association. In accordance with these rules, inferior staff and subordinate staff (except clerical staff) drawing less than Rs. 40 per mensem are not eligible for passes. Under present conditions, Government are not prepared to suggest to the Conference Association any extension of the existing privileges.

Statement.

Eastern Bengal Railway : Third class passes are given to inferior staff irrespective of the pay drawn, whereas for subordinates the class of pass is determined by pay.

East Indian Railway : Passes to inferior staff are not given for dependants or attendants and separate passes are not given for their families. Except in special cases, the issue of passes for inferior staff is restricted to their home station, and such staff are eligible for three sets of passes only after three years' service.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway : The concessions given are those admissible to subordinate staff coming within the salary limits for third class passes.

North Western Railway : The concessions given to inferior staff are the same as those given to the subordinate staff.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government consider the advisability of restricting the privileges now given to higher paid officials in regard to the issue of these free passes and of giving the benefit of those savings to these lower paid officials ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : As my Honourable friend is aware, restrictions have recently been imposed on the privileges admissible to higher paid staff.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that considerable money is being spent by the Railways on the saloons that are placed at the disposal of many of these railway officials ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That has nothing to do with passes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will it not be possible for Government to give up the practice of placing these saloons at the disposal of these higher officials and thus save some money which can be spent for the benefit of the lower paid officials ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, order ; that does not arise on this.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether Government will consider the question of giving passes to inferior servants on what you may call foreign lines amongst the State Railways themselves ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, Sir ; as I have already said, we are not prepared to agree to any extension of existing privileges at the present moment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask why they do not propose to extend those privileges ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : On financial considerations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : On financial considerations, should they not bring equality among all classes by curtailing the privileges of certain classes of people ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Those privileges have already been restricted to a certain extent.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether it is the policy of Government to discriminate among classes on the basis of their salaries and their economic position ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : No discrimination is practised. Each is treated according to the grade in which he is.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : If it is not discrimination, what is this treating of people according to their grades ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The answer has been given.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Sir, as regards question No. 655, there is obviously some mistake. My question was, "does not come within the purview", etc., whereas it is printed as "does come within", etc. In these circumstances, I should like to ask you, Sir, whether you will permit the question to be put in the way in which I had intended to put it, and, if Government are not prepared with the reply, permit them to print their reply in the records of the Assembly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Are Government prepared to reply to the question as amended ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : There is no obvious mistake in the question. Mr. Joshi informed me about two minutes ago that he wanted to alter the whole tenor of the question and had intended something entirely different. I have an answer ready to the question as it stands on the paper which I am prepared to give, and if the Honourable Member cares to put supplementaries after that, I will do my best to answer them.

Mr. Joshi : All right, Sir.

REGULATION OF WORK IN HAZARDOUS OR DANGEROUS OCCUPATIONS AND TRADES.

655. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have made any enquiry as regards regulating work, from the point of view of safety and health, in hazardous or dangerous occupations and trades like work on Railway siding, construction of high buildings, Fire-works making, tanning, bangle making, etc., when the work in these occupations does come within the purview of the Factories Act ;
- (b) if they have not made any enquiry, whether they propose to do so ;
- (c) if they have made enquiry what their conclusions are ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : (a) and (c). The issue of rules under section 33 (4) of the Factories Act is under consideration in consultation with Local Governments. As regards the operations named by the Honourable Member I might explain that fire-works manufacture is regulated by a separate law, the Indian Explosives Act, and work on railway sidings subject to the Factories Act is a matter for regulation by rules made by Local Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government of India would make an inquiry about the desirability of regulating work in the occupations mentioned by me when the work does not come within the purview of the Factories Act ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : As I have already said, as regards fireworks, these are regulated whether they come under the Factories Act or not. As regards railway sidings which lie outside the factories, they are a matter for regulation under the Railways Act. In certain other directions, we are making inquiries in connection with a Convention passed relating to occupational diseases.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government of India will continue the inquiry as regards regulating for the sake of safety ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : No general inquiry is under contemplation at present.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether they will consider the question of making an inquiry ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I think a general inquiry of this kind would be an extremely expensive affair and would not give results commensurate with the labour and expense involved. It is primarily a matter for Local Governments in whose hands the administration of labour lies.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government of India is aware that in Great Britain there are regulations for the preservation of safety in these hazardous occupations ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : There are a number of regulations regulating dangerous trades, I believe.

LICENCE GRANTED TO ISA BROTHERS FOR OPENING MUSLIM REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON STATIONS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

656. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of railway stations in the six divisions of the East Indian Railway at which Isa Brothers have got a licence for opening Muslim Refreshment Rooms ?

(b) Have Isa Brothers got the licence of Tea Shops or licence for the sale of other articles at any station on the East Indian Railway ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to mention the names of the stations at which they have such licences ?

(d) Have Government got any information whether Isa Brothers personally supervise these restaurants or they leave the administration in the hands of their servants ?

(e) Are Government aware that they have different prices for the different waiters who serve the passengers on the same platforms ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Seven.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is placed on the table.

(d) The Agent states that besides employing supervisors the proprietors themselves pay periodical visits of inspection.

(e) The Agent states that this is not so ; and that the rates charged are in accordance with the schedule of rates approved by the Administration.

List of Stations at which Messrs. Isa Bros. have contracts for Tea Stalls, etc.

Moghalsarai to Tarighat and Sasaram (inclusive), Manpur to Sasaram (exclusive) and the Daltonganj Branch.

Allahabad, Bhaupur, Rura, Phaphund, Etawah, Mainpuri, Tundla, Aligarh, Khurja Junction, Bulandshahr, Moradabad, Bareilly and Najibabad.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, the next four questions also relate to the same matter : may I, therefore, ask supplementary questions to all these questions at one time in the end ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes.

LICENCE GRANTED TO KAPOOR AND COMPANY FOR OPENING HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON STATIONS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

657. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of railway stations in the six divisions of the East Indian Railway at which Kapoor and Company have got a licence for opening Hindu Refreshment Rooms ?

(b) Have Kapoor and Company got the licence of tea shops or licence for the sale of other articles at any station on the East Indian Railway ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in affirmative, will Government be pleased to mention the names of the stations at which he has such licences ?

(d) Have Government got any information whether Kapoor personally supervises these Restaurants or leaves the administration in the hands of his servants ?

(e) Are Government aware that he has different prices for different waiters who serve the passengers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Nine.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is placed on the table.

(d) and (e). The replies to these parts of the question are the same as to parts (d) and (e) of the previous question.

List of Stations at which Messrs. S. L. Kapoor and Company have Contracts for the Stalls, etc.

Barh (exclusive) to Dildarnagar (exclusive), Patna to Gaya (exclusive), Jhajha to Barh, Sahebganj Loop up to Dharara and South Behar, Mandah Road, Meja Road, Sarsaul, Cawnpore Central Goods Shed, Bhaupur, Rura, Jhijnhak, Phaphund, Achalda. Bharthna, Etawah, Kosma, Bhongaon, Mainpuri, Jumna Bridge, Aligarh, Khurja Junction, Bulandshahr, Dankaur, Benares Cantonment, Moradabad, Lhaksar, Chandausi and Raja-ka-Sahaspur.

PASSES GIVEN TO ISA BROTHERS AND KAPOOR AND COMPANY BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

658. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of passes given to Isa Brothers and Kapoor and Company by the East Indian Railway administration including those given by the Divisional Superintendents ?

(b) What is the monetary value of a first, a second, an intermediate and a third class pass ?

(c) Have Government ever calculated the loss to tax-payers by awarding these passes to these contractors ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Messrs. Isa Bros. 19

Messrs. S. L. Kapoor and Co. 33

(b) The monetary value depends on the mileage travelled.

(c) The issue of these passes is considered necessary by the administration to enable the contractors to carry on their work.

AUTHORITY GIVING CONTRACTS TO THE CONTRACTORS AT STATIONS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

659. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to mention the authority who gives the contracts to the contractors at different stations on the East Indian Railway ? Is there any check by which Government can avoid giving the contracts to the same persons in different divisions ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I presume my Honourable friend refers to the refreshment and vending contracts. The grant of these is within the competence of the Divisional Superintendents concerned, except as regards the contracts for refreshment rooms for first and second class passengers which is under the control of the Chief Operating Superintendent.

Government see no objection to the contracts in the various Divisions being given to the same firms if they are competent to undertake them.

FIXATION OF PRICES OF ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR SALE AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

660. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to mention the authority which fixes the prices at which licensees should sell articles to the travelling public ?

(b) Do the Railway authorities fix the size of the plate and the quantity of meat, while fixing the prices of plates ?

(c) Is it not a fact that these licensed restaurants charge four annas for one ounce meat ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) I presume my Honourable friend's question has reference to railway refreshment rooms, the tariff of which is subject to the approval of the authority empowered to give the contract. This may be the District or Divisional Officer in some cases, or the Chief Traffic Manager or other officer of the same standing.

(b) and (c). Government have no information, but I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of Railway Administrations with a view to their enquiring into the matter and considering the feasibility of regulating the tariff of charges according to the quality of food supplied.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask whether the system of giving refreshment contracts in a large number of stations together with tea stalls and various other things to one person is for the benefit of the passengers, or, for whose benefit it is ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The object is undoubtedly for the convenience of passengers.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I know, if under these monopolies, which have been given, whether passengers have not to pay much more than they would otherwise have to do if contracts are given to local persons ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The information at the disposal of the Railway Board does not substantiate that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I am sorry that the Railway Board depends entirely on the reports they get, whereas we depend upon our personal experience, and that is far more reliable than the reports they receive. May I also add that the Railway Board never see these things for themselves as they travel in saloons and every one 'in attention' when they travel, whereas we travel like ordinary passengers : are we not, therefore, the greater authority in these matters ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Agents of the Railway Administrations have the benefit of the advice of members of the Standing Advisory Committees.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I understand the answer is that the Agents know better than the travelling public about the prices and quantity and quality of food supplied by these contractors ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Any complaints usually come to the notice of the Agents in some way or other, and, though the Agent may not be a better authority than all the travelling public put together, there is nothing to prevent his being a better authority than an individual member of the travelling public.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Just as we are bringing before Government and with the same result. As regards supervision, the Honourable Member said that they occasionally go and supervise the work, but usually they leave it to their servants to administer. Is not my Honourable friend aware that large contractors do not give full quantity, and that the quality is also bad ? I speak from my own personal experience.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have no reason to doubt my Honourable friend's experience.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If he agrees with this, will he take steps to remedy these defects ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I shall forward a copy of these questions and answers to the Agents of the Railways for their information.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : We raised this question several times on the floor of the House that contracts should be given as far as possible to local persons : is it not a fact that the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore on behalf of the Government admitted this fact ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That refers to the general inquiry which the Railway Board have undertaken as a result of some observations in this House. The reports from all the railways, together with the opinions expressed by members of the Local Advisory Committees, have been received, and they are under consideration at the present moment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will the Honourable gentleman consider this fact also, that, in addition to all these troubles, the railways supply passes to these big contractors, and these passes are used not only by them, but by a large number of persons who carry goods free of charge, for which under other conditions they would have to pay ? And may I ask, has the Honourable gentleman ever calculated the amount of loss which the railways sustain in issuing these passes to these contractors ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : To the last question I can only reply that without one of the essential factors of calculation, namely, mileage travelled, it is impossible even for my Honourable friend to make a computation.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I understand that the Honourable Member cannot give the monetary value of each pass ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : How can I ? It depends on the mileage.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that if these passes are not given, they will have to purchase ordinary tickets ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Undoubtedly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Why is the railway administration so charitable as to give free passes to these contractors who make money in other ways from the travelling public ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have already explained that the railway administrations consider that the issue of passes is desirable, so that the proprietors can themselves supervise the work better.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I know—my friend there may not know, but we on this side know very well—the reason for giving the contracts to big persons and to do away with the small and petty contractors ? Does the Honourable gentleman understand it ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, I cannot understand the question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Then, I can explain to him.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai : May I know whether the Railway Board consider, with regard to these inconveniences that have been brought to their notice, whether the local advisory committees should be consulted so that these complaints may come to an end ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The local advisory committees have been consulted on the question of the most suitable system for this purpose.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the local advisory committees are consulted when licences are given or contracts are given to particular vendors ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No. That is an executive matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : In view of the complaints that have been received, will the advisory committees be consulted or not in these executive matters ? It will remove all the complaints and inconveniences.

(No answer was given)

AMOUNT EARNED BY STATE RAILWAYS BY SALE OF APPLICATION FORMS.

661. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Is it not a fact that the Railway Administration has made a rule that all applications for appointments should be on prescribed form which is sold at Re. 1 ?

(b) How much money have the State Railways earned under this head from January 1935 to July 1935 ?

(c) Is this income shown in the general income of the Railway Budget ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Under Note 2 to rule 54 of the Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, it is open to a railway administration, with a view to discouraging frivolous applications, to charge a nominal fee not exceeding one rupee per application form.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) It must be.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if Government make any profit out of this ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have not made any calculations on that point.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : With reference to part (c), may I know under what head in the Budget this is entered ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : It will be shown under Miscellaneous Receipts.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF TYPISTS AND ROUTINE GRADE CLERKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

662. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** (a) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission are holding a competitive examination to fill appointments of Typists and Routine Grade clerks in the ministerial establishments of the Government of India, and that the applications for admission, which had to reach by the 2nd September, 1935, were required to be accompanied by certificates of proficiency in typewriting from certain private Institutions mentioned in the Application Form ?

(b) Are Government aware that the time allowed to the candidates, particularly to fresh graduates and under-graduates from colleges, within which they are required to submit typewriting certificates, is very short ?

(c) Are Government aware that some years ago the Public Service Commission used to examine the successful candidates in typewriting by conducting such an examination themselves ?

(d) Are Government further aware that the practice mentioned in part (c) above was somehow given up by the Public Service Commission which introduced the practice of requiring the candidates to submit such certificates a few months after the examination ?

(e) Are Government aware that as a result of the recent change a number of candidates, many of whom may be first class graduates and undergraduates, will be debarred from taking the examination simply because they will not be able to furnish the certificates with the application ?

(f) Are Government aware that as a result of this recent change introduced by the Public Service Commission, the private institutions mentioned in the application form have found an opportunity of extracting fees to the extent of Rs. 40 for granting a certificate in typewriting which is more than double the admission fee, from candidates most of whom are obliged to spend much more to go to Lahore from their native places ? Why is the Public Service Commission promoting the interest of such private institutions ?

(g) Are Government further aware that in this particular case the Public Service Commission is required by the Government of India to hold a competitive examination for the typists and routine clerks which is classed as Third Division of the Imperial Secretariat ? If so, is it not one of the legitimate duties of the Public Service Commission to test the speed of candidates in typewriting as well ? If not, how ? If the reply be in the affirmative, why have the Public Service Commission changed the past practice ?

(h) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of themselves holding in future the examination of the successful candidates only in typewriting as they have been doing previously ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member, except that the date for the submission of typewriting certificates has been extended until the 2nd October, and these certificates are issued by Government institutions as well as private ones.

(b) It is not intended that candidates should begin to learn typewriting only after the issue of the notice of the examination.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) Proficiency in typewriting is a more important qualification for third division clerks than high academic qualifications.

(f) Government are not aware of this.

(g) and (h) There are serious practical objections which make it difficult to examine a large number of candidates in typewriting, and it is unlikely that candidates who are unable to produce the certificates at present required would be successful in competitive examination. Government are, however, prepared to consider the possibility of including typewriting in the examination.

REPORT OF THE BURMA TRIBUNAL ON THE FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT.

663. ***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to give a date early in the coming Session of the Assembly for discussion of the Report of the Burma Tribunal on the financial adjustment ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Memoranda that the Government of India submitted through their representative before this Tribunal ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to make available to the House all papers that their representative submitted before the Burma Tribunal ?

(d) Have Government submitted their views on the report of the Burma Tribunal to the Secretary of State since that report was published ?

(e) Will Government please lay on the table all correspondence that passed between them and the Secretary of State since the report was available to them ?

Sir, I don't wish to put the first part of the question, but I should like to put the other parts.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (b) The Government of India submitted no Memoranda to the Tribunal except one describing the future monetary arrangements between the two countries, the substantive part of which has been published.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) The only correspondence which has taken place between the Government of India and the Secretary of State was in regard to the publication of the report.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

664. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the yearly contribution of India towards the expenditure of the League of Nations at Geneva ;

(b) the yearly contribution of the other State members ;

(c) the total amount of money paid out of the Indian exchequer for the League of Nations from the time India became a member upto the year 1934 ;

(d) the total number of officials and employees belonging to each State member who work in the different organs of the League ; and

(e) the total amount drawn as salary each year by these officials and employees belonging to each State member ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the General Summary of Ordinary Contributions on page 5 of Part I of the League of Nations Budget for 1936, a copy of which is in the Library.

(c) The total sum paid in contributions up to the year 1934 is approximately rupees one crore fifty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to pages 1276 to 1287 and pages 1339 to 1369 of the Official Journal, 15th Year, No. 10, Part II of October, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. R. S. Sarma : Sir, will the Honourable the Leader of the House tell this House as to how often, during the last two or three years, has this question, similarly worded and couched in the same language, been put in this House and answered ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : An answer is not necessary.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I also point out, Sir, that the repetition of this question so often is due to the fact that the Assembly has never had a chance of discussing this question, and 'question' is the only method of debating the subject ?

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

665. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when and at whose instance and with what object India first became a member of the League of Nations and on what conditions ?

(b) How and by whom are the Indian delegates to the League elected or appointed ? From whom do they derive their authority to represent India ?

(c) Do the Indian delegates act on their own independent judgment or upon instructions received from every body ? If upon instructions, who gives the instructions ? What is the system under which the instructions are formulated and conveyed ?

(d) What is the status of the delegates as compared with that of the other State Members ?

(e) Is the public opinion of India consulted through the Legislature or otherwise by the Indian delegates before advocating or accepting a certain policy on any question of national importance ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) As a signatory to the Treaty of Peace named in the Annex to the Covenant, India automatically became an original Member of the League of Nations under the operation of Article 1 of the Covenant. The objects and conditions of membership will be clear to the Honourable Member from a perusal of the Covenant.

(b) They are appointed by the Secretary of State acting in consultation with the Government of India and derive their authority from that appointment.

(c) They receive their instructions from the Secretary of State acting in consultation with the Government of India, and within the terms of their instructions are free to exercise their discretion. For the system under which instructions are formulated and conveyed the Honourable Member is referred to the relevant sub-paragraph in paragraph 25 of the Memorandum on the International Status of India presented to the Indian

Statutory Commission. He will find this Memorandum on page 1632 of Volume V of the Memoranda submitted to the Commission, a copy of which is in the Library.

(d) The status of all delegations is identical.

(e) No, but the Honourable Member may take it that public opinion in India is taken into consideration when the instructions to the delegates are prepared.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Do Government think that the enormous expenditure of one crore and odd is justified in view of the fact that the public in India has never been consulted whenever the Government of India tried to give instructions to their delegates ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member is arguing

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : As I understand my Honourable friend's question, he wants me to express an opinion on it, which I would rather not do.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government consider the desirability of consulting public opinion in India through the Legislative Assembly in future before they give instructions to their delegates to the League of Nations ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : As at present advised, I think that is a wholly impracticable idea.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it so ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question please.

RESIGNATION BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

666. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** (a) Are Government aware that the following countries have resigned their membership of the League of Nations, *viz.*,

(1) Germany, (2) Japan, (3) Brazil, (4) Costa Rica ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of India's withdrawal from the League ? If not, are Government prepared to consult the opinion of this Honourable House on the advisability of such withdrawal ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not prepared to contemplate the withdrawal of India from the League and consequently do not propose to take the action suggested in the second part of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the advice given by the Government of India to their delegates in regard to this ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : How does it arise ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Are the Government of India not prepared to consider the advisability of India withdrawing from the League, or

are there any advantages which India derives from continuing in the League ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I have answered that question previously, and I submit that a general question like that ought not to be put as a supplementary to a particular question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know first with regard to part (b)....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot discuss a question of policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Do Government propose to consider the desirability of India's withdrawal from the League—that was the question, and the answer is "No". I am asking, Sir, what are the reasons why the Government do not propose to consider the desirability of India's withdrawal from the League ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It is a matter which rather involves a question of policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : If they can state the reasons briefly, they can.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot put a.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti : The answer to part (b) of the question is a categorical "No". I am asking for an elucidation of that—what are the reasons for this "No" ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If the Honourable Member can answer it, let him give an answer.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : It is not possible to answer it here in detail, but I may remind my friend that this question has been answered by me repeatedly, and may I give my friend one of the numerous answers ? A similar question was put by Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla on the 23rd July, 1934.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti : We were not here.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The Honourable Member was not here, of course. But this is what I said :

"Government have received no protests and have never contemplated resignation from the League, a step which in their opinion would represent at once an abandonment of an international duty and an abdication of international status."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta : Before I put the next question, I must express my thanks to the Honourable the Finance Member for very kindly supplying me with a copy of the reply in advance.

INCOME-TAX PAID BY TEA COMPANIES IN BRITISH INDIA OWNING TEA GARDENS IN THE TRIPURA STATE.

667. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta :** (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that Tea Companies situated in British India owning tea gardens in the Tripura State are required to pay income-tax on the entire amount of their total net profits while only 40 per cent. of such income is assessed in the case of tea gardens situated in British India ?

(b) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that some Tea Companies situated in British India owning gardens in the Tripura State pressed a claim on the Income-tax Officer, Tipperah and Noakhali Division, for allowing exemption of 60 per cent. of their total net profits from assessment under proviso 2 of section 4 of the Indian Income-tax Act and that the said claim has been disallowed by the Income-tax Officer, Tipperah and Noakhali Division, on the ground that the profits from tea gardens in the Tripura State do neither "arise" nor "accrue" within the State as the tea manufactured in the said State is sold in British India and the sale proceeds are received directly from the brokers by Companies situated in British India?

(c) Have the Government of India received two representations, one from the Tipperah Chamber of Commerce and another from the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce in which they have urged that the Income-tax Department has taken an extremely wrong view of proviso 2 of section 4 of the Income-tax Act and that the erroneous and far-fetched interpretation put by the Income-tax Department on the said proviso is calculated to defeat the object of the amendment of 1933 as incorporated in the said proviso?

(d) Have Government considered the desirability of issuing departmental instructions as to the correct interpretation of proviso 2 of section 4 of the Income-tax Act in connection with the Tea Companies situated in British India owning tea gardens in the Tripura State and of pointing out that the above-mentioned interpretation of Income-tax Department is erroneous?

(e) If the last question is answered in the negative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of taking immediate steps for amendment of the Income-tax Act with a view to place the Tea Companies owning tea gardens in Indian States on the same footing with the tea gardens in British India as regards assessment of income-tax?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd : (a) Yes.

(b) No ; but I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India do not agree that the interpretation of the law adopted by the Income-tax Department is incorrect.

(e) In view of the representations which have been received, the Government of India have decided to ask for the advice of the experts, who are shortly to be appointed, upon this subject.

RESPONSIBILITY OF A SUPERVISING POSTMASTER FOR THE WORK DONE BY HIS SUBORDINATE CLERKS.

668. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa** (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal) : Will Government state whether a supervising postmaster is held wholly and solely responsible for the work done by his subordinate clerks and whether the clerks are exempted from all responsibilities?

Mr. A. G. Clow : No.

CONTRACT FOR SELLING SWEETS AND OTHER Eatables AT THE AMBALA RAILWAY STATION.

669. *Mr. Sri Prakasa (on behalf of Mr. Sham Lal) : (a) Are Government aware that the contract of selling sweets and other eatables at Ambala Railway Station has been given not to a professional *halwai* but to a Babu who has sublet it to some other person ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a general complaint that the contractor supplies unwholesome things and charges exorbitant rates ?

(c) Are Government aware that the present system of giving contracts to any persons regardless of their profession causes much inconvenience and loss to Railway passengers ?

(d) Are Government prepared to revise the present system of contracts and introduce the system of giving licences to professional men of the locality only ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The Agent, North Western Railway, states that the contract has been held since 1932 by Messrs. Daulat Ram and Company, who have held similar contracts at Meerut Cantonment and Meerut City for over eleven years and have been working satisfactorily at these stations, and that there is nothing to show that they have sublet their contract.

(b) The Administration have not received any complaints of this nature. The prices charged are in accordance with rate lists supplied by the Divisional Superintendent and the contractors have strict instructions to exhibit these rate lists and not to charge more than the rates shown therein.

(c) and (d). The Agent states that under the present system licences for vending eatables at stations are given only to professional vendors.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are these rates the same as are prevalent in the town in which the restaurant is situated ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I think I have explained on a previous occasion that these rules are fixed after consultation with local civil authorities and after consideration of the rates prevailing in the city. I cannot say definitely in this particular case whether the rates are the same as in the city or not

EXTERMENT OF MR. GOKULDAS, SON OF PADARATH DAS, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI.

670. *Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha : (a) Are Government aware that Sjt. Gokuldas son of Sjt. Padarath Das, has been exiled by the Government of Fiji for a period of three years from Fiji where he has been domiciled and has been virtually interned in India ?

(b) Are Government aware of the offence committed by the said Gokuldas and will they be pleased to state it ?

(c) Is it a fact that no allowance is given to him and he has to shift for himself while under exile from his country ?

(d) Are Government aware that Gokuldas is penniless and has been going about in search of employment but has not been able to secure any and has therefore been forced to lead a life of vagrancy ?

(c) Are Government prepared to secure for him a suitable allowance for maintaining himself during the remaining portion of the period of his exile ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a)—(e). So far as Government are aware, Mr. Gokuldas was not exiled from Fiji. He is not interned in India nor is he under any sort of surveillance. Government have no information regarding any offence committed by him in Fiji. In view of the position described above the question of granting him an allowance does not arise.

Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha : Is he at liberty to go back to Fiji ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I do not know.

Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha : If he wants to go back to Fiji, will Government interfere with his movements ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I cannot say what the intentions of the Government of Fiji in regard to this gentleman are. But such enquiries, as I have been able to make, show that he was not externed from Fiji.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE INCOME-TAX OFFICER OF PATNA FROM THE INDCOME-TAX CASES OF THE SHAHABAD DISTRICT.

671. ***Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha :** (a) Are Government aware that the jurisdiction of the Income-tax Officer of Patna was withdrawn from the income-tax cases of the district of Shahabad in Bihar and Orissa about two years ago ?

(b) Is it a fact that cases from Shahabad district have now been transferred to the file of the Income-tax Officer at Gaya ?

(c) Are Government aware of the inconvenience caused to the assesseees of the district of Shahabad in representing their cases to the Income-tax Officer at Gaya in place of Patna which was the case previously ?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the hardship and inconvenience caused to the income-tax assesseees specially of the town of Arrah (in Shahabad District) from where the bulk of the assesseees come and place them again under the jurisdiction of the Income-tax Officer at Patna ?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd : (a) and (b). The Government of India understand that the position is as stated.

(c) The Government are not aware that there is any serious inconvenience caused by the arrangement. Arrangements are made to avoid such inconvenience by requiring the Income-tax Officer to spend a considerable amount of his time on tour visiting the important towns in the whole of his charge.

(d) The complaints that have been made will be borne in mind if at any time it becomes possible, without interfering with the efficient and economical administration of the department, to re-arrange the jurisdictions of Income-tax Officers in the Province.

RULES FOR THE REFUND OF MISSING OR LOST CURRENCY NOTES.

672. *Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proposed rules for the refund of missing or lost notes that are published in pursuance of a provision in the Reserve Bank Act ?

(b) Are Government aware of the great hardship that will be caused to the public, in case the above rules are adopted, when currency notes are either inadvertently torn or mutilated or lost in transit or in any other way ?

(c) Are Government prepared to suggest such changes in the rules as are calculated to better protect the interests of the public in case of loss of notes for any valid cause ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Bank of England rules on this subject ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the value of such notes as were reported to have been either lost or missing for which no refund had been given by the Currency Department in the years 1930 to 1934 ?

(f) Is it a fact that pay order issued upon a Government Treasury is payable only to those in whose favour it is issued, if they attend in person and is not realisable through any Bank on their behalf ?

(g) If the facts as stated above are correct, do Government realise the hardship and inconvenience caused to the payees in such cases and are they prepared to change the existing rules or adopt any other course that may avoid delay or inconvenience ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) The rules issued by the Bank follow the former Government rules on the subject and Government do not think that any hardship will be caused by their adoption.

(c) Government do not consider any changes necessary.

(d) The only information which the Bank of England have for publication is contained in a brief notice which is issued to persons desirous of tracing Bank notes of the denomination of £5 and upwards. I place a copy of this notice on the table.

(e) The desired information is not available and its collection would involve so much time and labour that Government do not consider that it would be justifiable to undertake it.

(f) and (g). Yes. This is because pay orders issued on a treasury are not negotiable under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The intention is that in future, when possible, pay orders (in the form of Bank drafts) will be drawn direct on the Reserve Bank or the Imperial Bank in places where the Government treasury business is done by either of these banks. Such drafts are negotiable. Government do not, however, propose to make any change in regard to pay orders drawn on treasuries where there is no branch of the Reserve Bank or the Imperial Bank.

NOTICE.

Regulations relating to Bank of England Notes, etc., alleged to have been lost, mislaid or stolen.

1. Any person desirous of tracing Bank Notes, Post Bills, etc., lost, mislaid, or stolen, with a view, if possible, of recovering the property, may, upon payment of a registration fee of 2s. 6d., cause the numbers, dates, and other particulars of such Notes, etc., to be entered, together with the name and address of the applicant, in a book kept in the Issue Office (4th Floor) at the Bank of England for that purpose :— Bank Notes, however, being payable to bearer on demand, the Bank cannot hold themselves under any responsibility should notes so entered be paid on presentation, whether from inadvertence of the clerks of the establishment, under an order from the Governors, or from any cause whatever.

2. The proper officers of the Bank will endeavour, if the circumstances of the case permit, to delay payment of the notes, etc., and to give information of their presentation to the person who has given notice, and paid the registration fee ; but such notice shall not be in force for more than twelve months from its date.

3. Many bank notes, etc., the subject of notice, are presented at the bank by bankers and other undoubted holders for value, and must be paid on presentation : in these cases the bank cannot do more than endeavour to give the earliest information to the giver of the notice.

REFUSAL OF ADMISSION TO INDIAN STUDENTS IN ENGLAND TO A SWIMMING POOL

673. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** (a) Is it a fact that two Indian Muhammadan youths were recently prohibited from swimming in a swimming pool in the United Kingdom, as a result of the colour bar ?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to take steps to prevent such occurrences in future ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta's starred question No. 546 on the 20th September, 1935.

Dr. N. B. Khare : May I know if it was a mixed bath ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I am not in a position to say whether it was a mixed bath or a single sex bath.

Dr. N. B. Khare : Why was this colour bar in operation ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : That is a question which ought to be addressed to the authorities who are responsible for running the swimming bath.

Dr. N. B. Khare : Is it not a fact that these gentlemen were prevented from entering after they had purchased tickets ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have answered that question the other day,—that at first there was a complaint on the ground that the railway company had actually issued tickets, and people, after having purchased tickets, were not admitted to the bath. That practice has been discontinued by the railway authorities.

(At this stage, Dr. N. B. Khare and Mr. Lalchand Navalrai rose in their seats to put further supplementary questions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That question has been answered before. Next question.

RECRUITMENT TO THE TRAINING RESERVE WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

674. ***Dr. N. B. Khare** : (a) With reference to the notification in the *Statesman*, Delhi, dated the 3rd May, 1935, regarding recruitment to the Training Reserve Women's Medical Service, how many applications for admission to this service have been received by the Chief Medical Officer, W. M. S., and how many Indian lady graduates are admitted ?

(b) What is the personnel of the Selection Committee which scrutinises these applications and when did it meet in Simla for the purpose ?

(c) Who are the lady graduates deputed this year for acquiring British Medical qualifications in the United Kingdom ?

(d) What are the criteria for admission to this service ?

(e) Is there any non-official member on this Committee, and, if so, who is that ?

(f) Were the old applications pending for several years put up before the Selection Committee or circulated to its members ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) 35 applications were received and four vacancies were filled.

(b) The Selection Committee consists of :

The Director-General, Indian Medical Service,

The Surgeon to His Excellency the Viceroy,

The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service, and Dr. Alice Pennell, O.B.E.

The Committee met on the 20th June, 1935.

(c) A statement is laid on the table. The object of deputation is further study which need not be in the United Kingdom.

(d) The minimum educational qualifications required are the possession of a degree in medicine of an Indian University. In making the selection, post graduate experience is also taken into consideration with a view to seeing whether the candidate would be able to benefit by a course of study abroad and take charge of large hospitals.

(e) Yes, Dr. Pennell

(f) Yes.

Statement.

The following members of the Training Reserve of the Women's Medical Service have been selected for prosecuting further studies in the United Kingdom :

1. Miss Ivy Massick (Anglo-Indian).

2. Miss Edith Smith (Anglo-Indian)—to obtain the D.M.R.E. of Cambridge.

3. Miss Sharyn Pandit (Indian)—has been awarded a Rockefeller Scholarship and is proceeding to America and England for training in Maternity and Child Welfare work.

4. Miss Mary Purienkarimpil John (Indian).

Dr. N. B. Khare : With regard to part (c) of the question, how many of them are Europeans and how many Indians ?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : There are no Europeans, Sir.

FACILITIES FOR DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO AN
ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

675. ***Dr. N. B. Khare :** (a) Is it a fact that a student of the Hindu College, Delhi, had applied in April 1935, for permission through the Secretary to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for appearing at the Competitive Examination of the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorki ?

(b) Is it also a fact that he was refused the permission applied for ?

(c) If so, will Government please state the reason for prohibiting a student from competing for the examination ?

(d) Is it the policy of Government that no student of the Delhi University should go to the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorki ? If so, what are the Engineering Colleges open to the Delhi University students for the study of Engineering ?

(e) Are Government aware of the fact that Delhi University students are not held eligible for admission to the Engineering Colleges of other provinces ? If so, are Government prepared to take immediate steps to improve the lot of the Delhi University students ?

Mr. A. G. Glow : (a) Yes, in March, 1935.

(b) and (c). The Government of India decided in 1925 that students resident in centrally administered areas who obtain from the minor Local Government concerned permission to appear at the entrance examination of the Thomason College and are admitted to the College may receive financial assistance from the Government of India. In the case to which the Honourable Member refers official permission was refused on the ground of financial stringency and because the Government of India were already paying an annual grant of Rs. 3,100 to the elder brother of the applicant. The refusal of permission does not necessarily debar a student from entry to the College and the applicant was advised to make his own arrangements with the College authorities.

(d) No. The second part does not arise.

(e) Students, not resident in the Bombay Presidency, are not at present admitted to the Poona College of Engineering, but Government are not aware of any specific bar elsewhere. The second part does not arise.

HOURS OF DUTY OF TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE JUBBULPORE RAILWAY STATION.

676. **Mr. Sri Prakāsa** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das) : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ticket collectors on the staff of the Jubbulpore Railway station ;

(b) the number of hours they are rendering duty per day ;

(c) from what hour to what hour they render duty ;

(d) whether they are provided with quarters in the Railway premises ;

(e) whether they are given any house rent allowance ; if so, how much ; if not, why not ;

- (f) whether Government are aware that they are required to work from 12 noon till 12 midnight ;
- (g) whether they are given extra pay for the extra hours of work ; if so, how much ; if not, why not ;
- (h) since when the hours of duty and shift have been started and on whose orders ;
- (i) for what reasons it has been fixed ;
- (j) why this time of duty has been fixed from 12 to 12 instead of 8 to 8 or 6 to 6 ;
- (k) whether Government are aware of the serious hardships the ticket collectors have to undergo as a result of leaving their work at 12 at midnight to go to their homes in the city for meals and rest ; and
- (l) whether Government contemplate changing the hours of duty and the hours of shift immediately ; if so, when ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Eight excluding the Head Ticket Collector.

(b) Twelve.

(c) Their hours of duty are from 8 to 20 hours and from 20 to 8 hours, the change in duties taking place weekly.

(d) No

(e) No. Ticket Collectors are not eligible for free quarters and are, therefore, not given an allowance in lieu thereof.

(f), (i), (j), (k) and (l). The Honourable Member is apparently referring to a roster introduced from the 5th June, 1935, as an experimental measure, with a view to distributing the work evenly, according to the trains to be dealt with, among the two batches of collectors. The roster was withdrawn and substituted by the duty hours stated in my reply to par (c) above from the 18th August, 1935, for the reason that the hour was inconvenient to the men. The collectors represented their difficulties through the Divisional Staff Council and their request for a revision of the roster was granted.

(g) Yes, when they are due to it under the Hours of Employment Regulations.

(h) The roster is decided by the Divisional Traffic Manager on the authority of and in accordance with the Hours of Employment Regulations.

NON-ISSUE OF WEEK-END INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS TICKETS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

677. **Mr. Sri Prakasa** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they are aware that week-end third and intermediate class return tickets are not issued on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at concession rates ;
- (b) if so, for what reasons ;

- (c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing return concession tickets in the future ; if so, when ; if not, why not ;
- (d) the names of the State Railways where concession return week-end third and intermediate class tickets are issued ; and
- (e) the special reasons for the non-issue of week-end intermediate and third class tickets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Not as a general rule ; but I understand third class week-end return tickets are issued from Bombay (Victoria Terminus), Byculla and Dadar to Nasik Road and Pandharpur and from stations in the Agra area to Delhi and New Delhi.

(b), (c) and (e). The question of introducing return tickets is a matter primarily for the consideration of the Railway Administrations concerned who are always ready to grant concession tickets if they are satisfied that these are likely to bring additional revenue. I will convey the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, for consideration if it has not already been examined.

(d) Week-end return tickets are issued on the Eastern Bengal Railway for third class and on the East Indian Railway for intermediate and third classes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Do Government propose to introduce a sort of uniformity in all railways in the matter of these week-end tickets ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No. Government have already asked Agents to consider all these questions for individual railways.

INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

678. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Trade Commissioners appointed on behalf of India in foreign countries ;
- (b) the names of the countries where Trade Commissioners have been appointed and their headquarters ;
- (c) their qualifications and the salaries they draw ;
- (d) whether they have separate offices, or whether they are attached to the British embassies in those countries ;
- (e) the names of the Commissioners so appointed ;
- (f) under whose directions they work, either of the Government of India or of the Chief Commissioner for India ;
- (g) whether they send suggestions to the different industries in India in regard to the qualities preferred in those countries from India ;
- (h) the total annual cost of maintaining each of the Trade Commissioners' offices ;
- (i) what they have done in the matter of introducing Indian products in foreign markets ;

- (j) what their activities are in general in this matter at present ;
 (k) whether they have considered the advisability of taking such Commissioners from the mercantile community or from the different chambers of commerce in this country ; and
 (l) whether Government propose to do so in the future ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (h), (i) and (j). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Paudit Nilakantha Das' starred question No. 521 on the 25th February, 1935. I lay on the table a statement showing the salaries drawn by each of the Indian Trade Commissioners in London, Hamburg and Milan.

(d) The Indian Trade Commissioners at Hamburg and Milan have their own separate offices. The office of the Trade Commissioner in London forms part of that of the High Commissioner for India.

(g) No. I may, however, invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement giving the principal duties of Indian Trade Commissioners which was laid on the table of the House with reference to part (c) of Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 54, asked on the 6th February, 1935.

(k) Yes. A member of the mercantile community has already been appointed to the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan.

(l) The matter will receive due consideration as and when the occasion arises.

Statement showing the salaries drawn by the Indian Trade Commissioners.

| | | | | £ per annum. |
|--|--------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------|
| Indian Trade Commissioner, London. | Pay | | 1721-5 | |
| | Representation Allowance | | 200-0 | |
| Indian Trade Commissioner, Hamburg. | Pay | | 1500-0 | |
| | | | (on the scale of | |
| | | | £ 1000—50—1500) | |
| | Representation Allowance | | 250-0 | |
| Indian Trade Commissioner, Milan. | House Rent Allowance | | 150-0 | |
| | Pay | | 1000-0 | |
| | | | (on the scale of | |
| | | | £1000—50—1500). | |
| | Representation Allowance | | 250-0 | |
| | House Rent Allowance | | 150-0 | |

Prof. N. G. Ranga : With reference to part (g) of this question, what procedure is adopted by the Government of India to make available their suggestions to the different departments of Industries and Agriculture in the various provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am afraid my Honourable friend did not hear the answer that I read out to part (g). I said :

“ No. I may however invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement giving the principal duties of Indian Trade Commissioners which was laid on the table of the House with reference to part (c) of Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 34 asked on the 6th February, 1935.”

If the Honourable Member likes I can read out that statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : That is not necessary. May we know how the various Provincial Departments are expected to avail themselves of the suggestions made by these various Trade Commissioners sent to the Government of India in regard to the marketing of different Indian commodities ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Reports are published and there are direct communications. For instance, one of the duties laid down on page 432 of the report to which I have referred is to furnish commercial information directed to the development of Indian export trade required by Departments of the Government of India or by Local Governments, by Indian States, by the High Commissioner for India or by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are not the Provincial Departments of Industries and Agriculture placed on the list of those to whom the Trade Commissioners are expected to send their periodical reports ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I would not like to answer that question without notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government consider the desirability of placing them on the list of those to whom these periodical reports are supplied ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Not until I have looked into the matter with regard to the previous question.

EXPENDITURE ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE DELIMITATION COMMITTEE.

679. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated approximate expenditure on account of the inauguration of the new constitution in India ;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for the Delimitation Committee announced recently ; and
- (c) whether the different provinces are to pay their quota for their individual province, or whether the expenditure is to be met by the Central Government ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) If the Honourable Member is referring to the cost preliminary to the setting up of the new Constitution no total estimate has yet been made. If, however, he is referring to the additional expenditure involved in the new Constitution, I would refer him to paragraphs 267 to 273 of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform.

(b) Rs. 1,34,500.

(c) The expenditure against (b) will be borne by the Central Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Are the figures in the paragraphs of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report to which the Honourable Member referred final ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : They are only estimates.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have the Government of India applied their mind to these figures, and are they satisfied that they are approximately correct ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have no reason to believe that they are incorrect. The accuracy of some of these figures will arise in connection with the institution of the new provinces.

EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING INDIA.

680. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the export trade of this country has been reduced as a result of the exchange restrictions ;
- (b) to what countries the export trade from India has been adversely affected and to what extent ;
- (c) what action they contemplate taking in the matter ; and
- (d) what are the countries that have imposed restrictions on Indian trade in their countries ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a), (c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to part (b) of Mr. Mudaliar's starred question No. 186 and to parts (a) and (e) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 6.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for March, 1935, which show the principal variations in the export trade of India in the past three years. The Government of India are not in a position to offer an opinion as to the extent to which these variations are due to exchange restrictions.

ISSUE OF ONE RUPEE NOTES.

681. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they contemplate issuing one rupee notes again ;
- (b) if so, their specific reasons for it ; and
- (c) when they are going to issue the one rupee notes ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I can see nothing in the present situation which makes necessary or even desirable the issue of one rupee notes.

Mr. Sri Prakasa : Are these one rupee notes still exchangeable or not ? I happen to have one.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have not seen one for a good many years. Some are still in existence as museum specimens.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that the Government of India do not bring these one rupee notes into circulation ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said that I can see nothing in the present situation which makes necessary or even desirable the issue of one rupee notes. There is not a Douglas Government in existence in India yet !

DEFINITIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE BOARD OF FILM CENSORS IN INDIA.

682. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have laid one definition to be followed by all the Boards of Film Censors in India ;
- (b) whether there have been differences in the definitions of the different Boards ;
- (c) if so, in what respects ;
- (d) the reasons for those differences ;
- (e) whether Government laid definitions as to what constitutes an educational film ;
- (f) if so, what the definition is ;
- (g) whether the definitions of the educational and other general films in this country differ from those of the other countries of the British Commonwealth ; if so, why ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a)—(d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the canons of censorship set out in Appendix G to the Indian Cinematograph Committee's report and to the observations in paragraphs 241 and 252 of that report on the practice of the Censorship Boards. The Committee found that all the Boards were applying very similar, if not identical, canons. The application of these canons to individual films is largely a matter of opinion and some difference between the Boards must necessarily be expected occasionally in a vast country like India where local conditions vary greatly.

(e)—(g). No rigid definition of educational films has yet been prescribed in India. I would however invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 158 and 201 of the Cinematograph Committee's report and to Article I of the League of Nations Convention for facilitating the international circulation of films of an educational character. As India has ratified this Convention, the definition of an educational film contained in that Article, a copy of which is laid on the table, may be taken as that which has been adopted by this country.

ARTICLE I.

The present Convention shall apply to films which based on didactic methods have eminently international educational aims and fall within one of the five following categories :

- (a) Films designed to supply information with regard to the work and aims of the League of Nations and other international organisations which are generally recognised by the High Contracting Parties ;
- (b) Films intended for use in education of all grades ;

- (c) Films intended for vocational training and guidance, including technical films relating to industry and films relating to scientific management ;
- (d) Films dealing with scientific or technical research or designed to spread scientific knowledge ;
- (e) Films dealing with health questions, physical training, social welfare and relief.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Is it a fact that the Board of Film Censors mainly scrutinise the films from a political point of view and utterly neglect the moral view point as a result of which several films of low moral tones are exhibited to the detriment of the morality of the people, specially of young boys and girls ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not think that arises out of this question.

Pandit Lakhrai Kanta Mehta : How do the Government of India exercise their control over the Board of Censors ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member had better put down a question.

NOMINATION OF INDIANS TO THE BOARD OF FILM CENSORS IN INDIA.

683. ***Seth Govind Das :** (a) Will Government please state whether they are prepared to see that more than sixty per cent. of the members nominated to the Boards of Film Censors in India are Indians ?

(b) Are Government prepared to see that at least 30 per cent. of the members are taken from the Indian industrial interests ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). The constitution of the Boards of Film Censors in India is a matter primarily for the Local Governments of the Provinces in which such Boards have been established and I am sure that the Governments concerned give full consideration to the various interests which should be represented on the Boards. I will, however, send a copy of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply to Local Governments for their information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What about the representation of the users of these films ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member's supplementary question will also go to the Local Governments.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Is it not a fact that there is a vast difference between the views of Europeans and Indians generally as to what are objectionable films from a moral point of view.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not think that arises out of this question.

LICENSED COOLIES ON RAILWAY STATIONS.

684. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the licensed coolies of the railways fall within the category of railway servants ;

- (b) if so, whether they get any of, or all, the facilities of a railway servant, such as medical assistance, housing facilities, etc. ; if so, where and to what extent ; if not, why not ;
- (c) whether the licensed porters have to pay anything to get their licence ;
- (d) how much they have to pay and to whom ;
- (e) whether they have to render any free service to the railway in the form of loading parcels and unloading them from trains ;
- (f) if so, whether they are paid anything for these free services ; if not, why not ;
- (g) whether this rendering of free service to the railway, over and above the payment of licence fee, is a condition of their agreement of engagement ;
- (h) whether Government are aware that they have to render free service for the officials of the railways ;
- (i) if so, why they are not paid for such services by the officials concerned ;
- (j) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter and regulate against this evil ;
- (k) whether Government propose to see that they are paid for services they render to the railways in loading and unloading parcels, etc., to and from trains ;
- (l) whether the cost of loading and unloading parcels and luggage is included in the charge of booking (freight) ; and
- (m) if so, why the coolies are not paid for their labour ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The practice in this respect is not uniform.

(d) to (m). I have called for information from railway administrations and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCIAL AND TRAFFIC INSPECTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

685. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of (i) Transportation, (ii) Commercial, and (iii) Traffic Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ;
- (b) their respective grades of salary ;
- (c) the percentage of Indians in each of the above groups as against Europeans and Anglo-Indians ;
- (d) the number of Indians out of the three groups in each case who are temporary ;
- (e) the number of Indians appointed or promoted to these services during the last decade since the Indianisation programme has been introduced ;

- (f) the number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians who have been appointed or promoted from lower services during this period ; and
- (g) the reason for this discriminative treatment ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 685, 687 and 688 together. The available information is contained in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Classified List of subordinate staff on pay of Rs. 250 and above and in Appendix F to Volume I of the Railway Board's Administration Report on Indian Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

STATION MASTERS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

686. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Station Masters on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the A grade (395—450) ;
- (b) the number of Indians as against Europeans and Anglo-Indians separately ;
- (c) whether the salary of an Indian Station Master of the A grade differs from that of an European or Anglo-Indian of the same grade ;
- (d) whether the same case is applicable to the B grade Station Masters also ;
- (e) whether, for instance, the salary of an Indian Station Master at Katni Junction varies from that of an European or Anglo-Indian Station Master ;
- (f) if so, the reason for this discrimination ; and
- (g) why it is not applicable to Cabinet Ministers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). There are two station masters in the grades of Rs. 425—25—450. Neither of them is an Indian.

(c) to (f). Government understand there is no racial discrimination and that an Indian station master in any grade is eligible for the same rate of pay as a European or Anglo-Indian in the same grade.

(g) Does not arise.

FUEL INSPECTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

†687. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Fuel Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ;
- (b) the number of Indians among them ;
- (c) the salaries they draw in each case ; and
- (d) the number of Indians on temporary service ?

LOCO. INSPECTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

†688. ***Seth Govind Das :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Locomotive Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 685.

- (b) the number of Indians amongst them ; and
- (c) their salaries in each case, along with that of the Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BUREAU.

689. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** : (a) Is it a fact that an Industrial Research Bureau has been opened by the Government of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that a meeting of the Advisory Council for the industrial research and intelligence was held in July last ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the members of this Advisory Council were nominated by Government and, if so, were they nominated on the recommendations of the different Industrial Associations ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether any member of the Bengal Industries Association was nominated to this Bureau ? If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the different industrial organisations or the Chambers of Commerce whose members were represented on this Advisory Council ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the items of research that have been entrusted to the new Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). The members were selected in the manner recommended by the Industries Conference. They were not nominated by Chambers of Commerce or other organizations.

(f) The items for immediate investigation relate to paints, the suitability of vegetable oils for certain purposes, Portland cement, lime and cement concretes, dry cells, sands and felspars, and the production of glass suitable for the manufacture of bangles on a cottage industry basis.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are Government aware that the handloom weavers number ten millions of people in this country, and yet they are not represented on this Industries Conference, and, therefore, they have had no chance of getting themselves represented on this Research Bureau ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I do not see any particular reason why they should be represented in the Research Bureau.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that various interests are represented on this Industrial Conference and on the Research Bureau ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : We do not give representation to " interests " on either of these bodies ; the persons sent are sent to put forward the views of Governments mainly, and a few persons are selected for their expert knowledge of particular questions or subjects likely to come up.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Is it one of the duties of the Research Bureau to advise prospective industrialists with a view to enabling them to start industries ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : The Bureau will also deal with industrial intelligence.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE.

* 690. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** (a) Is it a fact that the provinces and the States have been asked to send representatives for participating in the seventh Industries Conference ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the representatives of the different small industrial organisations will also be invited to this Conference ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : (a) Yes : most of the provinces and certain States have been invited to send representatives to the Seventh Industries Conference.

(b) No : because the Conference is convened for the purpose of enabling the various Governments to discuss matters of common interest to them and is already as large as is convenient.

U Thein Maung : Has invitation been extended to the Government of Burma ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I think there is no Industries Department in Burma. As far as I recollect, they did not attend the previous Conference, but it was certainly open to them to do so.

U Thein Maung : Have they been invited to send any representative to this conference at all ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : Speaking from memory, I think they were, at any rate to the previous Conference, and they were given information of this.

CLASSIFICATION OF PAPER.

* 691. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed " Paper import and Tariff Board ", " classification ", " Calcutta Associations representations ", published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 7th July, 1935 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the representation has been given due consideration ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the decisions arrived at by them on that representation and the reasons for coming to their final conclusions ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). The representation in question is understood to have been addressed to the Tariff Board in connection with the enquiry into the question of the classification of paper for tariff purposes. The Report of the Board on the subject was received last week and no decision has yet been arrived at.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

* 692 ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial headed " The two crore Derby " published on page 2 of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 7th July, 1935 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to represent Indian interests in the acceptance of tenders for the construction and supply of materials for the proposed construction of Howrah Bridge under the Port Commissioners of Calcutta ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government gave an assurance that Indian industrial interests will be safeguarded when tenders will be accepted ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is statutorily within the competence of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners and the Government of Bengal, on both of which bodies Indian interests are directly represented. The Government of India have no further information on the points raised by the Honourable Member.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Are the Port Commissioners of Calcutta negotiating with a German firm to give this contract to them on the basis that the firm will purchase an equivalent amount of Indian goods ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have no information.

EXHIBITION OF OBJECTIONABLE CINEMA FILMS.

693. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** (a) Are Government aware that there is a strong public feeling in India against the exhibition of objectionable cinema films and dissemination of vulgar advertisements of such films? If not, has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial comments published in column 4, paragraph 2, page 8 of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 7th July, 1935, regarding this subject ?

(b) Do Government propose to take proper steps to stop the exhibition of such films ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). My Honourable colleague has seen the Press report to which the Honourable Member refers. As he is aware, a Bill providing for the censorship of cinematograph posters and other forms of film advertisement is now under reference to a Select Committee of this House. In regard to the exhibition of objectionable films, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the observations contained in paragraphs 241—248, 251 and 252 of the Indian Cinematograph Committee's report. While the Committee observed that it is largely a matter of opinion as to what constitutes an objectionable film and that it is possible that such films are occasionally passed for exhibition, they are generally satisfied with the standards applied by the Board of Censors and by the manner in which these Boards were discharging their difficult duties. The Act provides power whereby the certificate granted in respect of a certified film may be suspended by a Local Government. The remedy is, therefore, for objectionable films to be brought to the notice of Local Governments.

HINDUS AND THE RAILWAY SERVICES.

694. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Hindus let down in the Services", "Punjab Hindu submit memorial to the Secretary of State", "Discrimination in the Railway services", published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 6th July, 1935 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any reference has been received on this subject by them from the Secretary of State ? If so, will they be pleased to lay the correspondence on the subject on the table of the House ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) No such reference has been received.

MAXIMUM ASSESSED RENT FOR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN SIMLA.

695. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** With reference to the reply to part (c) of starred question No. 462, in this House on the 7th August, 1934, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why a maximum assessed rent is fixed for all Government quarters on the basis of capital outlay on such buildings ? Is the renting of Government quarters administrative and not commercial ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : The fair rent of the accommodation is fixed, and the occupant pays that rent or ten per cent. of his pay whichever is less. Administrative considerations certainly enter into the arrangements for renting Government quarters.

MONEY INVESTED IN THE BUILDING OF QUARTERS IN SIMLA AND DELHI AND INTEREST PAID FOR SUCH DEBTS.

696. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria :** Will Government be pleased to state, separately for Simla and Delhi, the total amount of public money invested in the building of quarters which are rented to Government servants and the total interest paid for such public debts out of the revenues of India every year ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Expenditure on residential buildings for Government servants.

| Place. | Rs. lakhs | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| | (to end of 1933-34). | | | | | |
| (1) Simla | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 74.00 |
| (2) Delhi Province | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.6 |
| (3) Delhi | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22.95 |
| (4) New Delhi | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 183.0 |

Items (1) and (4) include the cost of residences for Members of the Indian Legislature. Final figures for additional outlay during the year 1934-35 are not yet available. The addition for that year in respect of items (1) to (3) is inconsiderable, but the addition for New Delhi amounts to nearly Rs. 51 lakhs, bringing the total of item (4) to the end of 1934-35 to Rs. 234 lakhs.

2. Interest charges.

The outlay on items (1) to (3) was charged to revenue and no interest is payable upon it. The interest charges on item (4) varied every year according to the rate of interest in force and the expenditure incurred up to the end of the year. Interest charges are not separately adjusted in the accounts, and their determination on a *pro forma* basis for each year would involve very great labour. Adopting the average rate of interest for the years 1917-18 to 1934-35, namely 5.2 per cent., the interest charges at present on Rs. 234 lakhs amount approximately to Rs. 12.17 lakhs per annum.

BASIS OF RENT FOR MEMBERS' QUARTERS.

697. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the rent for members' quarters are on the basis of assessed rent ? Is the Central Public Works Department not run on commercial lines ?

(b) Do Government propose to run the Central Public Works Department residential buildings on commercial basis ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : (a) Members of the Indian Legislature are charged rent assessed under Fundamental Rule 45-A. This is the concessional rent payable by Government servants. The operations of the Central Public Works Department are governed by rules and are not commercial.

(b) No. To do so would very largely defeat the objects with which residential accommodation is provided.

ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN SIMLA.

698. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** : (a) Is it a fact that several men occupying 'A' type unorthodox quarters in Summer Hill have been forced to vacate such quarters on the ground that their pay is more than Rs. 600 ? If so, why have men, drawing more than Rs. 600 but occupying 'A' type orthodox clerks quarters in Simla, been allowed to stay in such quarters in spite of the statement made by Government in reply to starred question No. 419, dated the 7th August, 1934 in this House that 'A' class orthodox clerks' quarters in Simla are meant for men drawing pay above Rs. 300 but below Rs. 600 ?

(b) Are Government aware that this benefits only a few Superintendents of the Public Works Branch of the Department of Industries and Labour ? If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : (a) Four officials have recently become ineligible for 'A' class quarters at Summer Hill. As regards the second part, the position is explained in the reply given on the 23rd September, 1935, to part (a) of starred question No. 597 by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.

(b) The allegation is unfounded and Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Is it a fact that European officers are given preference in the allotment of Summer Hill quarters over Indian officers ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : No, Sir ; I understand there is no discrimination at all. The rules apply equally to all officers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if any preference is given to Members of the Legislative Assembly for whom these quarters are intended ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : Certain quarters are reserved for Members of both Houses of the Legislature.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that the Government of India have absolutely nothing to do with this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I have on several occasions explained the position that this matter lies entirely within the competence of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners subject to the approval of the Bengal Government.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury : Are Government aware that the Tariff Board recommended :

“ At the same time we consider it a matter of the utmost importance that when a large public undertaking of this description is under consideration, every effort should be made to utilise to the fullest extent the material resources and manufacturing capacity available in India ” ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury : In view of this recommendation of the Tariff Board, do the Government of India propose to take any action in this matter, drawing the attention of the Bridge Commissioners to this report of the Tariff Board ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I have no reason to assume that the Bridge Commissioners are not aware of this portion of the Tariff Board's report.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask if the Government think it expedient or not to give advice to the Local Government and the other authorities concerned not to take any contract from outside ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : For the simple reason that the matter does not lie within the competence of the Government of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Has any correspondence in this matter at any time recently passed between the Port Commissioners of Calcutta or the Local Government of Bengal or both and the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The Government as the result of questions received from certain Honourable Members of this House did make inquiries as to where the matter stood and the information received has already been supplied to the House in answer to questions previously put.

DELAY IN THE DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS' DEGREE EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have received a telegram from the Honorary Secretary of the Indian Society of Accountants and Auditors, Bombay, protesting against the procrastination in declaring the results of the Final Examination for the

Registered Accountants' degree, held by Government in the beginning of April, last ;

(b) what the reason for the postponement of the publication of these results is ; and

(c) whether they propose to publish the results of the Examination immediately, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) Yes. The examination was, however, held from 26th to 29th April, and not in the beginning of April.

(b) Delay has occurred owing to the fact (a) that certain of the candidates in neglect of the examination instructions answered questions on the wrong answer-books thus involving needless interchanges of answer-books between the various examiners, and (b) that the results of the examination were such as to necessitate their very careful re-consideration by the examiners and ultimately by the Public Service Commission.

(c) Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : It is immediate.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know what was the nature of the results, and where do the Public Service Commission come in in assessing the results of the examination ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am not prepared to disclose the nature of the results, but the Public Service Commission might well come in for the purpose of consultations as to the action proposed to be taken by the Department before the publication of the results.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Do I understand the Honourable the Commerce Member to say that the Public Service Commission can direct the examiners to increase or decrease the marks ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I have not said that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Then, what is the inference or the advice or the suggestion which the Public Service Commission can make to the examiners ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Not to the examiners, but to the Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Where does the Department come in in publishing the results of the examination ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The examination was held under the supervision and the superintendence of the Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Has the Department any jurisdiction apart from publishing the results sent up to them by the examiners ? Does the Department interfere with the results of the examination ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : No, Sir. If any advice had been received from the Public Service Commission which necessitated another reference back to the examiners, that might or might not have been done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am asking for some light. I am asking, Mr. President, whether the Department or the Public Service Commission did interfere, by way of advice or suggestion, with the declaration of the results of the examination ? I presume, examinations are by means of papers and the word of the examiners is final. May I ask if their word was final, or was there some communal readjustment ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : There was not the slightest idea of any communal or other readjustment of that character.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What is the nature of the advice which the Department or the Public Service Commission can give in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : All bodies like Universities and other bodies, which hold examinations, do scrutinise the results when they are received from the examiners, and the body that finally scrutinises those results may come to the conclusion that a reference back on certain matters may or may not be desirable to the examiners. That is the kind of consultation to which I have referred.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is the position this that the Department can ask the examiners to revise the results ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The Department cannot ask them to revise the results.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Then, what can they do ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : They can ask them to re-value the papers from a certain point of view.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Only to increase the passes ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : If the Honourable Member thinks that in this particular case the examiners were asked to increase the number of passes or the Department forced them to pass a larger number of people, that is not so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Then, what is it ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has now perhaps sufficiently explained the position.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State :

“ I am directed to inform the Legislative Assembly that the following motion was passed in the Council of State at its meeting held on Tuesday, the 24th September, 1935, and to request the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the said motion :

“ That this Council do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that the Bill to provide for the better administration and governance of Hindu Temples in the city of Madras and the endowments attached thereto be referred to a Joint Committee of this Council and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 members ’.”

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE SCHEME OF PREFERENCES RESULTING FROM THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I lay on the table the report* on the working of the scheme of preferences resulting from the *Ottawa Trade Agreement* for the year 1934-35.

THE JUBBULPORE AND CHHATTISGARH DIVISIONS (DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS VALIDATION) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Bill to remove certain doubts and to validate certain proceedings of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House) : Sir, on the last occasion the matter was almost finished, and you were good enough to give me time to consider whether I should not put in an amendment by way of extra caution as a result of the suggestion which came from my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Somebody else must move the amendment, and not the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : My Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, will move it.

What I am saying now is that we want to move an amendment which will make it perfectly clear that somebody may not raise the question that today we are giving jurisdiction and, therefore, affecting the jurisdiction of the Central Provinces Court and it may be said that both the courts are having concurrent jurisdiction. We are, therefore, simply putting a word only to make the position perfectly clear.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary : Legislative Department) : Sir, I move :

“ That in clause 2 of the Bill, before the words ‘ has had ’, and before the words ‘ shall have ’ the word ‘ also ’ be inserted in each case.”

Honourable Members who have heard the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will realise the purpose of this amendment which is of the nature of drafting amendment introduced *ex majori cautela* to prevent a possible claim to exercise jurisdiction in these matters in the Allahabad High Court. We think, Sir, the contingency is altogether remote, but there is just that possibility and this amendment is introduced to stop that little gap. We have to thank the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition for the suggestion which has resulted in this amendment. Sir, I move.

*Not included in these debates, but copies have been circulated to Honourable Members and are also available in the Library.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That in clause 2 of the Bill, before the words ‘ has had ’, and before the words ‘ shall have ’ the word ‘ alone ’ be inserted in each case.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the Title and the Preamble stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, my only desire in giving notice of this amendment* was that in the Bill some word or words should be inserted somewhere to show that this Legislature was not prepared to condone any action of any court of law that goes beyond the powers vested in that court.

Sir Lancelot Graham : On a point of order, Sir. Is not the Honourable Member merely reflecting on the conduct of the High Court ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Isn't that so ?

Mr. Sri Prakasa : I remember your ruling, Sir, very well. My Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, need have no anxiety about that. I was just going to say that—and that will satisfy my fastidious friend over there—that in view of the fact that the word “ alone ” has been inserted in the right place, I feel that my purpose has been fulfilled. Because it is clear that before this the Central Provinces Court alone had the right to do what the High Court of Allahabad wrongly did. When the word “ alone ” has been inserted, my purpose has been fulfilled, and I, therefore, do not propose to move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the Title and the Preamble stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I move :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

*“ That in the second paragraph of the Preamble to the Bill, after the word ‘ also ’ the word ‘ unfortunately ’ and after the word ‘ taken ’ the words ‘ without authority ’ be inserted.”

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.”

Sir, when I originally moved for reference of this Bill to a Select Committee last April, I gave an undertaking that we would consult the all-India Cantonments Association and obtain their opinion on the Bill and lay it before Honourable Members of the Select Committee before they were called upon to meet and discuss the Bill. That, Sir, was done. The all-India Cantonments Association, or perhaps I should say one or two of the younger and more enthusiastic Members of that Association, who possibly will grow wiser as they grow older, were pleased to take up a destructive attitude towards this Bill. I am all the more glad that the Select Committee did not follow that lead. They preferred to take up a constructive rather than a destructive attitude ; and the result has been, by a judicious mixture of youth at the prow (as represented by the all-India Cantonments Association) and wisdom at the helm (as supplied by the Select Committee), that the Bill has escaped ship-wreck and has, I am glad to say, its way into calm waters.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House by a detailed exposition of the provisions of the Bill and the alterations that the Select Committee have made in it. The House will have an opportunity of discussing details more fully at a later date. All I need say is this, that a large number of clauses in the original Bill, to which the Government at no time attached any very great importance, have been omitted. The clauses in the original Bill to which the Government did attach considerable importance have been retained, but their drafting has been very considerably altered in favour of, what I might call, the popular point of view. For instance, the principle has been accepted of replacing military executive officers by civilian executive officers, but it has been agreed that the Cantonment fund should not pay the whole of the salary of these civilian executive officers, but that the Government should pay half. Similarly with the clauses about water-supply and building. The general principles of these clauses have been retained, but provisions have been inserted which I hope will adequately safeguard the interests of the civil population in these matters. But, Sir, the Select Committee have gone a great deal further than that. They have introduced two entirely new principles which I think are of great importance to the civil population in Cantonments. In the first place, they have recommended that elected representatives of the people should normally have a voice in the administration of all Cantonments not only in the administration of a limited number as at present ; and, secondly, that the elected representatives of the people should have a predominating voice in the administration of the purely civil areas in Cantonments. The first of these involves the abolition of all nominated Boards and also of that form of one-man-rule which is now known as ‘ corporation sole’. The second involves the statutory appointment of a Bazar Committee consisting of the elected members of the Board which I hope will be entrusted with the detailed administration of bazar areas in future. These, Sir, are two very large and far-reaching changes of great importance.

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

have been labouring. But I would submit for your consideration that of the two points that my Honourable friend has put down, the first is not in order because this grant which we are now considering does not relate in any way to the appointment of inspecting staff. It relates entirely to works.

The second point, I quite agree, is entirely in order and I shall be ready to reply as best as I can to any observations which the Honourable Member has to offer. But I would ask you to request the Honourable Member to confine himself to the second of the two points which he has set down.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes that is a question which can be discussed.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Sir, I move that this demand be readed by TS. 131, and I wish to urge greater economy in making and increasing landing grounds. I should like to make it perfectly clear at the outset that I should be the very last person to oppose the development of civil aviation in India. I should like to see my country well equipped in all matters which may be considered the necessities of modern life ; and I consider that civil aviation is certainly becoming very rapidly a necessity of modern life. It is no longer a luxury. But at the same time I must say.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Is the Honourable Member only referring to the question of economy ?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am confining myself to the question of the construction of aerodromes, landing grounds and matters of that description. I must say that the amount that is being expended on the preparation of landing grounds, aerodromes and other connected works is wholly incommensurate with the results which I find reported. For instance, we find that there are about 17 aerodromes throughout India ; and on these 17 aerodromes, so far, the Government have spent something like 69 lakhs—they propose to spend a good deal more money now. I think they have spent Rs. 69 lakhs since 1930, and their receipts in 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 45,000 all told : in 1935-36 they amounted to about Rs. 83,000 and odd, which included fees for licences, certificates ; and allowances were made for customs duties and various other things : of course I am excluding petrol tax : including petrol tax this amount would be larger. My point is that these landing grounds and aerodromes are being largely used now by services which may be called trans-India services, that is to say, by the K. L. M. company, by Air France, by the Imperial Airways and by the Trans-Continental Airways—they are being mostly used by these services which are hardly of any use to India. In other words, we are spending all this money on aerodromes and landing grounds which are not primarily for the use of India and which do not, in any way, benefit us even indirectly ; because, even the petrol tax which you realise does not in any way repay the Government for the amount invested in the construction of these landing grounds and aerodromes. I may also add here that the additional constructions, which the Civil Aviation Directorate is about to undertake, will necessitate the employment of a large number of highly paid staff, including Aircraft Inspect-

tors, technical officers, aerodrome officers, assistant aerodrome officers, ground engineers and others. That also means an indirect burden on the tax-payer for no rhyme or reason ; particularly when we bear in mind the fact that in 1927 a promise was definitely vouchsafed to this Assembly, that Indians would be sent out for training. Ten Indians were to have been sent out for training in 1927 : we do not know what has happened to them, how many of them have come back and whether these trainees are employed anywhere or they are not. Moreover we were told that it takes about three years to train Indians abroad : I believe the cost of the training of about two persons for three years abroad would not exceed Rs. 34,000

Mr. A. G. Clow : I am very reluctant to interrupt the Honourable Member ; but I suggest that under cover of his second point on the notice paper he is really bringing in what he wanted to say on the first point : this is hardly a matter coming under greater economy in making and increasing landing grounds.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am only trying to show that the construction of these landing grounds will mean employment of so many more people and we are not sure of what use they can possibly be to us, because no Indians are likely to be employed in spite of the fact that we have spent so much money. I believe I am entitled to make that point

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member's point is that, if Indians are employed, there will be less expenditure.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Exactly, Sir : that is my point. Now, I was suggesting that about 34,000 rupees are required for the training of two Indians abroad for three years. In 1932, the Standing Finance Committee definitely asked that Indians should be sent abroad for training. A scheme was prepared for sending out four Indians and in 1932, for reasons of economy and financial stringency, that very scheme was dropped. This is how this Assembly is treated and this is how the Standing Finance Committee is treated and in spite of that we are now asked to allow the Civil Aviation Directorate to undertake very large works amounting to about Rs. 20 lakhs : and all this 20 lakhs is going to be spent on the construction of landing grounds. Even as regards these landing grounds—to which I come back to please my Honourable friend, Mr. Clow—I have had some little experience, not exactly of preparing them but of examining the accounts of some private companies who have prepared landing grounds, for instance, the Himalaya Transport Company. They have prepared landing grounds somewhere near Kalka and various other places, which have not required more than Rs. 45,000 ; whereas we find here that on the maintenance of landing grounds alone, thousands of rupees are going to be spent. These 17 landing grounds that exist in India today include aerodromes and require an expenditure of as much as 95,000 a year for maintenance. That is wholly incommensurate with the results. I think instead of its being a remunerative concern, it is really becoming a losing concern. Under these circumstances.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot go into the question of policy now : he can only discuss economy in the expenditure which it is proposed to incur.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am only trying to point out the fact that whereas according to private enterprise only Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 50,000 is more than enough to prepare the whole ground including the aerodrome, here we find as much as Rs. 180,000 and Rs. 120,000 and even Rs. five lakhs in one place. This is absolutely extravagant : in fact I am prepared to say.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The demand is only for Rs. 1,000.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : It is a token demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can only ask Government to reduce within those limits

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am simply asking the Government to exercise greater economy and closer control over this expenditure.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It ought to have been discussed when that grant was before the House.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am afraid it was not at the time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Surely this is not a new service ?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I am not suggesting that it is : I am only just trying to prove that greater economy is possible and ought to be exercised. To my mind the expenditure is preposterously lavish : in fact I think it is reckless ; I do not want to detain the House longer ; it is on this ground that I oppose this grant.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member should formally move his amendment.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Yes, Sir ; I formally move :

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant for a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on the Development of Civil Aviation met from the Fund ’, be reduced by Rs. 101.”

Before concluding, Sir, I should like to say one word. If the necessary and satisfactory assurances are forthcoming from the other side, I don't think I shall press it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant for a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on the Development of Civil Aviation met from the Fund ’, be reduced by Rs. 101.”

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : May I ask for some information, Sir ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Sir, I find at page 3 of this blue pamphlet that the Government of India have spent about Rs. 7,000 for the establishment of a landing ground in Cuddappah. I should like to know whether this is the total sum that is proposed to be spent on the establishment of the landing ground, or whether much more money would have to be spent in future on such things as the improvement of landing ground and so on, because I find in some cases the cost of improvements to landing

grounds comes to as much as a lakh of rupees. I want to know if this sum of Rs. 7,000 is being provided only as a beginning....

Mr. President The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim: The demand is only for Rs. 1,000.

Prof. N. C. Bhaug: I am referring to the total. I would like to know whether this sum of Rs. 7,000 is being provided for a landing ground at Goddipah only as a beginning, and if so, how much more the Government of India propose to spend for other particular purposes, and whether they hope to construct buildings and houses for the staff who may have to be stationed there. I should be much obliged if the Honourable Member will give us information on these points.

Mr. A. G. Clow: Sir, I have some very considerable interest to the observations made by my friend Mr. Abdur. If I followed him correctly, the main point raised in the first part of his speech was that this expenditure was being incurred very largely for the benefit or at least the use of foreign companies travelling across India, and the benefit to India was comparatively small. To a certain extent, that is true of one of the routes, that is the main route across India from Karachi *via* Calcutta to Rangoon. But even that route, I would remind my Honourable friend, is of substantial assistance both to Indian aviators and to Indian traffic. There are also, of course, two other rather important routes in operation, that running from Karachi *via* Madras to Colombo, and the other running from Karachi to Lahore, the former being operated by Tatas and the other by the Indian National Airways, and if the House will refer to the Explanation of details at page 3 of this little pamphlet, they will find that the expenditure is distributed over different lines. I admit that the expenditure on these big aerodromes is not at present a commercial proposition, in the sense that we do not get a return in the form of tangible and visible assets corresponding to our outlay. But I think the Honourable Member will recognise that we are dealing here with a form of enterprise which, as he will undoubtedly agree, is in its infancy, and I am sure that, on reflection he will also agree that it is important that this should be undertaken at this stage by the State. Honourable Members opposite, I think, are for the most part strongly in favour of the policy of having the Railways run by the State, and certain Railways have had to be purchased in recent years.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Reserve Bank also.

Mr. A. G. Clow: If we were to neglect our duties on this very important route, not merely an Indian route but really a world route, for India is going to occupy a central position in aviation in certain respects. I think there would be a tendency for private enterprise to fill the gap, and we would later find ourselves faced with vested interests, in some cases foreign interests. I think he will agree that the policy we have adopted of seeing that we have a satisfactory basis of aviation in India, entirely under State control, is one which looks to the future and one which is in the circumstances wise.

As regards the actual details and his suggestion that economy was possible in landing grounds, I do not doubt that under the vigilant eye of the Honourable the Finance Member and others, every economy that

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is possible now will be secured. I agree that there is a very big difference between the cost of different landing grounds. I remember a case where a Collector told me that he had made a landing ground at a cost of eight annas. He was in a district where there was a lot of what we in the United Provinces, call *usar* which, as my friend knows, is flat land practically devoid of all kind of vegetation, and he persuaded an enthusiastic Zemindar, for whom it had no commercial value at all, to allow it to be demarcated. I do not know if it is still a landing ground. It is also true that some landing grounds can be prepared comparatively cheaply. It depends very largely on the use and the regularity of use to which you are going to put your landing ground. For example, I think the Himalaya Air Transport Company are developing small landing grounds in one or two places at probably rather a small cost.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : What about army landing grounds ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : The Honourable Member did not refer to that in his speech, but they cannot be used for regular services. They can be used by private aviators from time to time, and we are actually considering the conditions on which they will be available for civil aviation, but what we are really dealing with is mainly the big routes to be used mainly for commercial flying. An example of a cheap landing ground is the one to which my friend, Mr. Ranga, referred, the one at Cuddappah. The amount entered here for that landing ground is Rs. 7,000, and I understand that that is very nearly the whole cost. It will cost probably about Rs. 8,000 before it is finished. That is, of course, not a landing ground at present in regular use by a commercial line. But if you are to have regular landing grounds on main commercial line, you must have a far higher quality, you will have to use them at all seasons, and particularly in the monsoon when we have difficulties in India that are probably considerably greater than in most other countries where flying has developed. We have, for example, to provide runways, which is a fairly large item among the details which have been furnished to Honourable Members. We are going to provide in places for night flying, and that is an expensive item. You will find, in the items here, about Rs. three lakhs on the lighting of aerodromes on certain routes, and that, of course is only a part of the ultimate expenditure that will be involved. You have to provide buildings for the aerodrome officers, and for hangars. Thus there is a very big difference between providing a really first class aerodrome properly equipped and worthy of the country on a regular commercial route, and providing an occasional aerodrome where an ordinary amateur or a man travelling occasionally on business can safely land, provided the weather conditions are satisfactory. I hope that I have said enough to satisfy my Honourable friend that we will bear in mind the desirability of avoiding every possible case of extravagant expenditure. Aviation is admittedly an expensive matter, at the present day, but as it develops, as we hope it will develop, India will reap in various ways, tangible and intangible, great harvests in years to come. (Applause.)

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative) : May I know what is the idea of lighting the air routes and whether lighting in air routes exists in any part of the world ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : Lighting is absolutely essential if you are going to have night flying. We have already a little lighting at, for example, Karachi, but the route is not really equipped for night flying as yet. The work is in progress.

Pandit Nilkantha Das (Orissa, District, Non-Muhammadan) : Will the Honourable Member kindly tell me whether there is any scheme for training and employment of Indians in the technical departments of civil aviation? I was promised last time and in this scheme it might have been included.

Mr. A. G. Clow : This is a scheme of works. The provision for inspection and employment comes out of different funds altogether. This is a fund for developing certain works. The expenditure on hangars, for example, is giving very considerable employment to Indians. All the hangars are being made of India's tested steel on all the big aerodromes.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Shikar : Muhammadan Rural) : Is it a fact that instead of having a landing ground at Jacobabad some people have urged that the landing ground should be at Shikarpur or Sukkur?

Mr. A. G. Clow : Sukkur was certainly considered, but Jacobabad was regarded as more suitable for certain reasons, particularly because of its greater suitability in certain seasons. It means a very small addition to the length of the route.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is the Honourable Member aware that the commercial people are mostly living in Shikarpur and they have asked that the landing ground should be changed from Jacobabad to Shikarpur?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I am afraid I cannot say off-hand whether Shikarpur was considered, but I know the rival claims of Sukkur and Jacobabad were considered. This is the first time I have heard of Shikarpur's claim but I am willing to take it from the Honourable Member that the people of Shikarpur have a natural anxiety that it should pass through their own place.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I have heard my Honourable friend, Mr. Clow...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has no right of reply.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor, Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I want information on a point which I have not been able to understand. At page 3, I find a provision is made for a portable hangar at Lahore at a cost of Rs. 5,000. Down below, under the heading "General", "Construction of hangars at Karachi, Rangoon, Calcutta, Allahabad, Delhi, Lahore, Bombay, Akyab and Madras", Rs. five lakhs. Here is Lahore again in this sum of Rs. five lakhs. Why are there two provisions for a hangar at the same place? Again, I want to know how many of these are new works and if there is a scheme for purchase of aeroplanes by the State in order that they may be used for civil aviation purposes.

Mr. A. G. Clow : As far as the first question is concerned, the answer is that they relate to different matters. A portable hangar is a very different thing from permanent hangars and it is a much less expensive item. The hangar accommodation at Lahore has proved somewhat in

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adequate for the needs, and this portable hangar is a very small item—Rs. 5,000—, and it is complete in itself. The hangar is under erection. As regards the second point, the answer is that this contains no provision whatever for the purchase of aeroplanes. This is a works programme and not one for the purchase of machines.

Mr. M. Alanthasayenam Ayyangar : Is it part of the general scheme to purchase aeroplanes and keep them on behalf of the State so that they may be used for various purposes? In view of the analogy that is often made between aeroplanes and the State Railways in his speech just now, is there an intention of purchasing aeroplanes on behalf of the State in order to run them in the interests of aviation?

Mr. A. G. Clow : That is not really relevant, I suggest, to the present point. We are considering certain works. The Honourable Member is perfectly entitled to raise that question when the regular aviation grant comes up next Session.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Madurai Association : Indian Commerce) : On a point of information, Sir. Will the aerodrome at Dunn Dum be developed or a new aerodrome be erected on the Budge Budge road?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I believe that question is under consideration. I am not able to give an answer now.

(Mr. M. Asaf Ali rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : If the Honourable Member wishes leave of the House to withdraw the motion he cannot make a speech.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I do not want to make a speech. I only wanted to say, after hearing my Honourable friend, Mr. Clow, that while I am not prepared to accept his assurance on the point of the use of the army landing grounds, because I think the Government ought to be able to make it possible for civil aviators to use the army landing grounds...

Mr. A. G. Clow : I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member. I explained that they are doing that,—that that question is under active consideration, and that arrangements will be made by which, under certain conditions, army landing grounds will be available to civil aviation. What I said was that we obviously could not use the army landing grounds as regular aerodromes on a big commercial route where there is constant traffic.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : In those circumstances, I do not think I shall press this motion to a division. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : I desire to speak on the main motion. The Honourable the Finance Member is sometimes orthodox, and sometimes unorthodox in his financial canons. I find myself somewhat in a difficult position, to understand exactly the scope of this supplemental demand, but I am sure he will throw light upon it. At page 2 of this green book, there is a note at the bottom which reads like this :

“A sum of Rs. 20,09,000 is required in the current year to meet expenditure in connection with the development of civil aviation for which a special fund of

Rs. 92,57,000 was constituted with the approval of the Legislative Assembly in March last. The details of this expenditure are as follows."

They are given on page 3. Then on page 4 there is another note :

"As the whole of this expenditure will be met from the special fund mentioned in paragraph 1 the net amount required in this Demand is nil; but a token demand is presented in accordance with the undertaking that detailed schemes met from the Fund will be brought to the notice of the Assembly."

I take it the meaning of these two notes and of the present motion made by the Honourable the Finance Member is that, although by 2 years of this House this sum of Rs. 92,57,000 has been sanctioned for the revenue service for this expenditure the detailed details of expenditure and what money is required for them, will come before this Honourable House for its approval. Otherwise, I do not see the purpose of this motion made by the Honourable the Finance Member and the token demand of one thousand is put in in order to enable the House to discuss the particular items of expenditure, proposal and so on, and so the Government will have to influence, if possible, the decision of the Government either by speech or by a vote, if needs any. From that point of view you will notice that this demand itself was passed in this House last year by a vast majority. I am not making any comment on that. I am merely stating that the motion was by the Honourable Sir James Grigg on the 29th March, 1935, that a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 92,57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of the Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Civil Aviation, and the Honourable the Finance Member explained that really it was a case of accounting, although, I would remind him, that he has stated before the House once that he was not very happy ever charging to capital, schemes which cannot be proved to be remunerative, but anyhow it has been done, and today the motion of the Honourable the Finance Member, as I understand it, is to seek the approval of this House for these various items on page 3. I want to know what these round figures are based on. They are all good round figures. What are these estimates? Who submitted these estimates? It is all one lakh, two lakhs, one lakh and 80 thousand, three lakhs, five lakhs and so on. Where do they get these figures from? It seems to me that these estimates are more often made, in order to get much more than they require, so that they may not have to come for a supplementary demand to us. They are not based on such information as this House is entitled to have. I do not know if the Standing Finance Committee had details of the estimates. Perhaps if they had the Government will give those details to us. Otherwise, it seems to me that these figures are....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member wants all the details?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Not at all. I want to know on what basis his five lakhs is wanted.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Those five lakhs are the amount expected to be spent on this programme under that particular head in the current financial year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I want to know who is the expert engineer or aviator who has put down these figures? What is the basis of these

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figures? These figures must mean something, and cannot be rough estimates. I want this House to know, before it is asked to vote 18,57,000 who are the authorities whose expert knowledge was invited for this purpose. They come along and simply shove these figures at us. I want to know what is the basis? That is the first point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It is not the practice to give detailed figures on these estimates, but the Honourable Member in charge should explain how these estimates have been arrived at.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I do not want any detailed estimates covering many pages. All I want is some intelligible guide in order to see that we are not asked to vote blind-folded. I have some experience of these estimates in the Public Accounts Committee, and I can tell you that these figures often err on the wrong side. Then, Sir, take the Hons. One lakh is wanted to improve the existing landing ground at Chittagong and then a lakh and 80,000 is wanted for the construction of administration block of building in New Delhi. Are we dealing with a poor country or the richest country in the world? Why do you want 1,80,000 for administrative buildings in New Delhi for running civil aviation? We have never heard of it. The Government of India have notions of economy which are not known to any civilised Government, or a Government which is responsible to the people. They simply ask for monies, as if it were nobody's property. Then you ask for three lakhs for the lighting of Karachi-Calcutta, Akyab-Rangoon and Bombay-Madras air routes. What is the basis of these estimates? Then, I want to raise this point—how much of this money is going to be spent in this country for buying Indian-made articles? I think this House has expressed more than once its very definite opinion that, to the extent to which money on any works of the Government can be spent in this country, it ought to be spent in this country; and, I believe, the House has gone even to the extent of saying that there should be a price preference, I do not know the exact percentage, I believe it is ten per cent., for Indian-made articles as opposed to foreign articles. I have a hazy recollection that recently this department started a scheme for lighting these aerodromes, and they bought the machinery from outside the country. There was a great deal of adverse criticism in the Press on that matter; and I should like to have an assurance from the Government that, to the extent to which it is possible, this money will be spent in this country for the purchase of Indian-made articles. That is a point on which I am sure that every section of the House will be with me—that this money ought to be spent in this country. I want to know again whether all this work is going to be done by inviting rupee tenders, or by arranging private contracts. That again is a matter which involves public funds and I should like to have an assurance that, wherever it is not impossible, the work will be done by inviting rupee tenders in this country, and to the extent to which they make any purchases they will use the excellent machinery of the Indian Stores Department. I do not know if Honourable Members have read the appendix to the Public Accounts Committee's report which sets out the advantages the State and other purchasing departments get from making their purchases through the Indian Stores Department. I should like to have a categorical assurance that, so far as any purchases are made, they will be made through the agency of the

Indian Stores Department. I also want to know, whether they are going to invite tenders for both materials and construction together or they are going to separate them—buy the materials and supply them to the contractors for merely doing the construction work.

There is also on page 4 an item 'Pay of officers' and so on. On this matter, I want to raise a point which I have raised more than once. If, for the present, we are not able to get Indians competent enough to be in charge of these departments, and if we are to employ non-Indians, I think it ought to be made part of the terms of the contract that they ought to train competent Indians to take their place at the earliest possible moment. I refuse to be a party to this continued employment of foreigners, without even a hope that as soon as possible my countrymen will be in charge of these great and expanding departments. These are all the points on which I should like to have an assurance either from the Honourable the Finance Member or the Honourable Mr. Clow, in order that this House may know that this money is really required and is not asked for in the careless way, which I have found characterises the estimates of Government departments usually in such matters. Secondly, I should like to have an assurance that this money will be spent in this country, as much as possible, on buying Indian materials; and, last but not least, the non-Indian officers who are appointed will have, as part of the conditions of their appointment, to train Indians to take their place at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. A. G. Clow : Sir, I can only wish that my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, had extended to me the courtesy that my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, did of informing me beforehand of the detailed points which he proposed to raise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, as the word "courtesy" has been used, I expect Honourable Members on the opposite side to extend to us also the courtesy of being prepared to meet all these obvious points.

Mr. A. G. Clow : I venture to say, Sir, that, with the possible exception of Mr. Satyamurti about whom I am not able to say anything, there is no Member of this House who can carry in his head the kind of encyclopaedia that would be required to answer off-hand all the detailed questions that he put. I will, however, try and do my best briefly to deal with the more important points that arise out of his speech. Dealing first with the general question of the estimates, these are prepared by a special staff which has been engaged for the purpose. We have instituted five works divisions under the charge of a Superintending Engineer. They are responsible, in the first instance, for the preparation of the estimates but, naturally, before they are passed, they come under the scrutiny, and normally the very close scrutiny, of financial experts.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Who are they?

Mr. A. G. Clow : The staff, naturally, under the charge of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. I cannot say who is the particular officer in every case; I do not suppose he has always been the same one.

Then as regards the use of Indian materials and the employment of the agency of the Indian Stores Department, the policy which my

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

Honourable friend desires is, as far as possible, being followed. I mentioned in reply to a previous inquiry that we were completing these hangars out of Tata's steel, and I would like just to mention that the Stores Department came in very useful there. The tenders were put out to contract—I think that is one of the points my Honourable friend asked—and the firm that contracted for the aerodrome in Rangoon proposed to use foreign steel. They were approached at the instance of the Indian Stores Department and they agreed to use Tata's steel for the purpose. (Hear, hear.)

As regards the expenditure in Delhi, my Honourable friend referred to the construction of an administrative block of buildings, now actually under construction, at a cost of Rs. 1,80,000. I cannot now give him all the particulars of the detailed buildings under construction in Delhi; I suggest my Honourable friend might pay a short visit to them either on his way through Delhi or during the next cold weather and see the progress that is being made himself. But when you have a big aerodrome you naturally want substantial buildings. You want, for example, some kind of shelter for your passengers, where they can wait in bad weather; you want some sort of building for mails where they can be securely kept; you want a control office of some kind. Then, the companies want offices,—and I may say when we put up offices for the companies, the policy normally is that they should be our property and the companies should pay rent for them, rather than that the companies should be able to put up at our aerodromes their own private offices which would be their own property and their own possessions. Then you want office accommodation for meteorology, and the wireless staff, with a view to the warning of pilots of the conditions which they are likely to meet, and so on, and you want some kind of restaurant for pilots; you may want a restaurant of some kind if the aerodrome develops. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti : A lakh and eighty thousand ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : This will I hope be one of the very biggest aerodromes in India, and that is not by means an excessive charge. Then, I think he referred to the electric lighting at Karachi. That of course is not just ordinary electric lighting; it is lighting that is wanted for night-flying, for marking and for guiding pilots on to the aerodrome, and that is naturally an expensive form of lighting and an expensive item of expenditure. But if you are going to have night-flying, at all, it is essential that your pilots should be able to fly with confidence, and with safety.

I hope I have dealt with the details of the more important points my Honourable friend referred to. As regards the training of Indian staff, I would again repeat that that is a point to be more suitably raised when the demands for grants for officers come up. If my Honourable friend will look up the establishment grant on page 4 of this pamphlet, he will find that it relates only to a few meteorological observers, stenographers and others, and no question of the employment of British or other personnel arises in this case. I suggest my Honourable friend might defer his suggestions or criticisms on that, until an opportunity will arise when the regular demand for civil aviation appears. Sir, I may perhaps add one word at the risk of being irrelevant; that it is a point, I know, that exercises constantly the minds of those in charge of this Department.

particularly Mr. Tymms, who has put in so much labour on this work. (fear, hear.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of ‘ Expenditure on the Development of Civil Aviation met from the Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

EXPENDITURE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADCASTING MET FROM THE FUND.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of ‘ Expenditure on the Development of Broadcasting met from the Fund ’.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of ‘ Expenditure on the Development of Broadcasting met from the Fund ’.”

The Honourable Member, Mr. Satyamurti, has given notice of an amendment by which he really wishes to discuss a question of principle which cannot be done under a Supplementary Grant.

Broadcasting should be made available for Political Propaganda under Reasonable Condition.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, the only question I want to discuss by this, I have mentioned in my notice of motion, that is to say, to urge that Broadcasting should be made available for political propaganda under reasonable conditions. I may mention, Mr. President, that this supplementary grant which is asked for by the Honourable the Finance Member includes *inter alia* building work on the Delhi broadcasting station including the mast foundations and also equipment for the whole Delhi broadcasting station. The total coming to 3 lakhs 38 thousand. I want, Sir, that, when this House is asked to vote this sum of over 2½ lakhs, this House should have an opportunity of stating and getting the vote of the House if necessary, on the policy covered by the actual supplementary demand before the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : This matter of broadcasting has already been discussed in the Delhi Session. The whole principle as to what purpose broadcasting was to be used for was

Mr President I then at this time according to the practice and the rulings that have been laid down by the Honorable Member I can not raise the question of that character.

I think I should like to say that the Government have not yet decided whether they will spend any money on the construction of a new building for the Government of India.

Mr President I am sorry to hear that the Government have not yet decided whether they will spend any money on the construction of a new building for the Government of India.

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"The Chairman has to make it perfectly clear that the limits that refer to schemes which have already been sanctioned by this House there can be no question at all of discussing the question of principle or policy."

Mr S Satyamurti I entirely agree with that ruling. But here no scheme has been sanctioned. What this House has sanctioned is to put this money into the fund. No details were given at that time.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I there no scheme given?

Mr S Satyamurti No Sir. If you will kindly look into this book containing details of the Supplementary Grant you will find that for the first time they are making definite proposals to spend this portion of the money. Originally in Delhi the Government wanted so much lump sum to be put in a fund and the House sanctioned it. There were no schemes placed before the House at that time. I entirely agree that it has not been put forward before the House then and the money was sanctioned. When I am out of court now to raise the point I am not really raising any question of principle with regard to the Supplementary Grant. My submission to you Sir, is this — that this is one of the first times when the House was asked and where it did vote a lump sum to be put in a fund. The manner of spending it was never placed before the House.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Did not the Honourable Member raise this point then?

Mr S Satyamurti I did raise it then, and you gave a ruling, Sir. May I remind you, Sir, that on a similar motion when I said that there was no new service, you said "I will not allow it to be made a precedent, I rule this may be in order." You ruled with regard to a similar demand for a transfer of a fund without any details of schemes being given after I elaborately argued.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The Hon. Member has said that the details were not given, they were not given to him. I am sorry to hear that. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use. The hon. Member has said that the details were not given to him. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use. The hon. Member has said that the details were not given to him. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use.

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Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The hon. Member has said that the details were not given to him. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use. The hon. Member has said that the details were not given to him. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use.

Mr. S. Satyamurti When there were no chairs placed for the hon. Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) When his grant was voted, when the broadcasting scheme was sanctioned, the House had the fullest opportunity and Honourable Members were at perfect liberty to point out to the Government in what way the grant was to be applied and how the scheme was to be worked. The opportunity for discussing any question was at that time and not now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti But you will find Sir there were no chairs at all placed before the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) There was a chair for the broadcasting scheme.

Mr. S. Satyamurti What could I discuss about that Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) I am sorry to hear that. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use. The hon. Member has said that the details were not given to him. I am sure that the hon. Member will be able to give the details to his use.

Mr. S. Satyamurti If you look at it in that way Sir then I am sorry. I may submit to you then, that so far as this particular grant is concerned I oppose this grant and will ask the House not to vote for the Delhi broadcasting station this sum unless it is going to be used for public propaganda. Will I then be in order Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The Honourable Member can only raise the point that since sufficient details are not given, he opposes it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti But details are now given. My objection is this, that I do not want the House to vote for the Delhi broadcasting station this sum of Rs. 258,000.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

spent out of this fund till after the supplementary demand has been approved by this House. It is not fair to this House to bring a supplementary demand for monies part of which is already spent. I should like to know the authority for it. Then they say :

“ They will then be in a position to decide which of the various schemes should be proceeded with against the provisions available in the fund, and which should be held over until further provision is granted.”

This is an eminent example of the nebulous way in which Government have placed this transfer to the fund before this House. They themselves have no programme in their own minds ; they themselves do not know what are all the schemes which will have to be brought for broadcasting in this country nor do they know which of them should precede which. Then I want to know with regard to the statement in paragraph 4 on page 2, financial effect of the proposal :

“ Total actual expenditure involved—

(i) non-recurrent—Rs. 16,500.”

That Rs. 16,500 represents details of the cases of the Temporary Works Division of the Wireless Department, which will be asked to prepare an estimate for six months. But I find that the actual demand as printed in the green book is for Rs. 3,81,500 to be met from the fund. Although the Finance Member now moves for Rs. 1,000 as a token demand, is this House now being asked to vote for Rs. 16,500 for the Works Division to prepare estimates, or is this House being asked to vote for the entire sum of Rs. 3,81,500 ? I think we should have some explanation of that matter. Then, I ask the question which I asked under the Civil Aviation Grant—building work at the Delhi Broadcasting Station, including the mast foundations, Rs. 50,000 ; Equipment Rs. 2,58,000 ; what are the major details of these two items and what are the estimates based on ? Are these articles to be purchased in India or through the Indian Stores Department, and is the policy of Swadeshi going to be pursued ? I do not want a mere non-committal answer that the Government is committed to this policy ; we know that ; what I want to know is something more germane, nearer to the facts, as to what are these materials and whether Government have made up their minds to strive their best to obtain these materials in India. I think the House must have some information on that matter.

Then I raise this point that if there is to be a broadcasting station in Delhi, it should be available for political propaganda, subject to reasonable conditions. It is done by the British Broadcasting Corporation.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member need not discuss that ; he may leave that subject.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti : They have said that they will not allow the broadcasting station to be used for political propaganda.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can make that a ground for opposing the motion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : That is what I am doing. You have ruled my amendment out of order, and I have too much respect for the Chair to try to do indirectly, what I have been asked not to do directly. But

I am opposing this grant for the Delhi broadcasting station because, in answer to a supplementary question, some time ago, the Honourable Mr. Mitchell, the Member in charge, said "We are not going to allow this station to be used for such purposes". The Controller of Broadcasting is a stranger who will come here with no notions of India, and he will decide for us what we ought to do. This Government decides most matters, mostly on the advice of people who are least competent to give them that advice; and this is one of the cases where they are going to ask a stranger to India, a man who comes for the first time, to advise them as to whether they are going to allow a broadcasting station to be used for political propaganda. I may inform the House that the British Broadcasting Corporation allows politicians to use broadcasting apparatus under certain well-defined conditions. I believe, Sir, when you were recently in England as a member and leader of the Empire Parliamentary delegation, you were invited to broadcast on the British Broadcasting Station. If England can stand an Indian President of an Indian Assembly to use her broadcasting apparatus, it seems to me the heavens will not fall if my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, or the Leader of the House.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair thinks the Honourable Member is again trying to discuss broad questions of policy which has already been ruled out of order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : You cannot rule this argument out of order. I feel very strongly on this matter....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That the Chair can quite understand.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am not moving my cut motion at all. It is dead and buried : I am now stating what the House should do : it ought not to vote this sum for the Delhi broadcasting station, unless they are going to allow the apparatus to be used for the education of my people, on sound lines. I want to know the arguments of my Honourable friends on the other side as to why the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the House or the Leader of the European Group or the Leader of the Independent Party or the Leader of the Nationalist Party, should not also be allowed to propagate their views on the political future of this country ; and as my friend, the Chief Whip, reminds me, I am not pleading for any favour for this party or that party. If we get one chance, we will give equal chances to others : our propaganda is so sound and our doctrines are so irresistible, that we can meet any arguments that may be advanced. We ask for no favour, but mere justice. I merely put it to my Honourable friends in this House whether in this country where literacy is so poor, where the people cannot read newspapers, where the people cannot afford to buy newspapers, whether it is not much more necessary in India, than even in Great Britain, that this broadcasting should be made available for political propaganda.

Secondly, I do not know what are the various programmes they are going to broadcast ; but I do suggest that one important feature of this broadcasting programme should be to reach our villages, which are becoming drab, almost uninhabitable, and all this cry of back to the villages which we hear in convocation addresses, on platforms, and on ceremonial occasions is intended not to be acted upon, unless we make

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the villages, to which we want our people to go, worth living in, and it seems to me that if by broadcasting we can reach our villages with news, with items of propaganda, not only on politics but on public health and on various other matters which are of vital interest to our villagers, we shall be doing something to make this expenditure, which is rather large in a poor country like India, on broadcasting, well worth our while. Moreover, according to the Lothian proposals, to give practical effect to which we shall have a supplementary demand presently, that is, the extension of the franchise, about 10 millions of our people are going to be enfranchised. Most of them are illiterate.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member ought not to cover that ground—that is really a question of principle which ought to have been discussed on the main grant. What ought to be done with broadcasting is a matter which ought to have been discussed on the original grant.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am opposing this whole grant.....

An Honourable Member : You are opposing broadcasting.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am opposing the Delhi broadcasting station.....

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : A scheme has been sanctioned ; and the time for raising all these issues was when the original grant was moved, and not now. This is a supplementary demand and it is not open to Honourable Members to discuss broad questions like that ; otherwise there will be no meaning in a supplementary grant. If this is a new service, the Honourable Member would be quite in order.

Mr. S Satyamurti : If I cannot broadcast my views even here, then God help my countrymen ! I shall say nothing more ; but I feel that this country cannot afford the expenditure on this Delhi station, unless it is going to be allowed to us, to broadcast social and political programmes among our countrymen, so that our country can take her proper place among the nations of the world. I, therefore, feel that this amount should not be voted by the House, unless the Government gives an assurance that they will, in using this money for building this broadcasting station, allow the broadcasting apparatus to be used for propaganda which will appeal to the imagination of my people.

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad : On a point of order, may I just draw your attention to page 5 of these demands ? It is stated at the bottom of that page, in the note, that it is token demand only. It is not a real demand to meet this supplementary expenditure : and I think, since this is a token demand only, we are entitled to discuss the policy as in token cuts.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Token demand does not mean that. As the Chair understands it, it means that for the purposes for which this supplementary demand is asked for, if the token demand is granted, the House shall be taken to assent that the amount which is mentioned here can be spent for that purpose.

Mr. M. S. Aney : May I ask, Sir, whether there is any precedent for a token demand being ever put in the form of a supplementary grant in this House ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Yes ; very often. Government put forward a small demand in order to make out a case for the main demand to be authorised by the House

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : May I point out in this connection that the House sanctioned a certain fund for broadcasting ; but it did not sanction the method of expenditure. That is why a token cut has been brought forward and, Sir, we can discuss the policy of that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair has explained that. The question ought to have been raised then. Honourable Members ought to have found out then what the Government were doing when they asked this money : for what purpose they were going to utilise this broadcasting fund. That was the time. The Chair takes it, when that question was not raised then, the principle was accepted that a broadcasting service should be instituted here at so much cost for which the money was granted, that is, broadcasting for the purposes which the Chair takes it the Government considered would be useful to the country.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Sir, I want to say a few words in connection with this demand. Within the limits of your ruling, Sir, I will submit some inconveniences which arise from the manner in which the demand has been put. When the original demand was placed before the Assembly on the last occasion, the general principle of the demand was no doubt accepted. I am not now for one moment attempting to controvert that position and trying to take up the time of the House by saying that no money ought to be spent on broadcasting purposes. But a demand for a thousand rupees has been made, while the total sum required is Rs. three lakhs and odd, and the present demand is now made in the form of a token demand. Now, it is not open to me to submit that so much money ought to be spent on Delhi broadcasting and so much on any of the other ten stations that you have in this continental India. You have now more than ten broadcasting stations all over the country,—it is not open to me now to say that your expenditure under one item is in excess of the necessity, and that other stations than Delhi are far more important and so more money should be spent there. In that way, if the demand instead of being put for a thousand rupees had been put for three lakhs, 81 thousand, it would have been open to me to make a cut under this head or under that head, not in pursuance of a particular policy or in view of any objection to the policy of broadcasting itself in the whole country, but, with a view to draw the attention of the House and also of the Government to the importance of a particular station, and if a station is not taken up at all, that particular station ought to be taken up as a broadcasting centre. In that way objection can be taken to the amounts asked for. Now, as it is, with the sum of one thousand rupees, what is it that I can do ? A sum of two lakhs 58 thousand has been asked for equipment of Delhi broadcasting station. I find, for instance, that Madras, being at one end of India, is much more important in my province than even Delhi, and is it open to me now under this token demand to say that two lakhs 58

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

thousand ought not to be spent in Delhi because there will not be any sum left for Madras? If that position is not accepted, then it is open to the Government to tell me, coming as I do from the extreme corner of India, that I should be satisfied with what little the Government is prepared to spend upon my province. I would, therefore, submit, that in the allocation of funds for every station, the opinion of this House must be taken. It ought not to be said: "Oh, you have accepted the principle of spending so much money and you cannot say any more on it". You can as well say that you have sanctioned 88 crores for the maintenance of railways in India, 93 crores on the maintenance of administration, and since we have accepted all that, we ought to accept your sovereignty and keep quiet without scanning the budget. I would, therefore, submit, Sir, far from impeaching the principle on which the fund was created, the following suggestions.

(1) The total ought not to be spent on one station, and other stations which have not been kept in view should also be included in that programme. That will be a legitimate objection. How is it possible for me now to include the other stations in this token demand? If I reduce a thousand to a hundred rupees how much would Government be able to spend on each station? Is this the proportion on which they would spend three lakhs and 81 thousand and odd? If I reduce the thousand to a hundred, it will be one tenth of a thousand, then how much would they be able to spend on each?

Secondly, Sir, if you will kindly see at page 5, you will find that the Honourable the Finance Member made a mistake when he said.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I did. If I might explain, that staff is entirely intended to work within the programme which has been sanctioned by the House.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : It is not what he said earlier. As the Finance Member said, let us confine ourselves to the improvement of the Delhi broadcasting station with respect to which details were already submitted to the Finance Committee and the House, but it is not so, as he now submits.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I did not say that.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Then what did you say?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said that it has been submitted to the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : At page 5, under head III, sub-head A, Establishment charges Rs. 16,500.—now I find that this sum is to be spent upon an establishment which has come into existence for the purpose of drawing up a scheme, or a programme of work. Now, in what places these schemes will be undertaken, how much is going to be spent on each scheme at each particular station is not stated. This amount is not intended for Delhi broadcasting station alone. Is it now open to me to say that this sum of Rs. 16,500 is an additional unnecessary item of expenditure when you brought a gentleman all the way from England as an expert paying him Rs. 2,000 a month, and giving him a small establishment of one or two clerks? Is it now open to me to say that you should distribute this amount among all the other broadcasting

stations in various parts of India? Of course, it is open to the Government to say that there ought to be a separate establishment. That is a point on which there can be difference of opinion. In any case, I submit that Rs. 16,500 is too large an amount to be spent. A separate establishment is brought into existence and an expert is being brought out from six thousand miles away. I would ask under what head can you bring this objection? I am certainly within the four corners of your ruling if I say I am entitled to take objection, without impeaching the purpose for which the fund was created, that this huge amount need not be spent on establishments. That is the other objection which I cannot take under this token demand of one thousand rupees.

Thirdly, Sir, it is proposed to spend a large sum of money on buildings. For the time being you may have these buildings provided you allow the public to use them. Is it not now open to me, with respect to the Delhi station, to say that just as the telephone service, telegraph service, the posts service is used by the public, the Delhi broadcasting station should also be allowed to be used by the public on payment of a certain sum of money by private individuals subject to the condition that the subject which is broadcast is not objectionable. Of course the word 'objectionable' is undefined and indefinite as we see when it is applied to cinemas and other things, but if the subject is objectionable on political or moral grounds do not allow its use. But if, as my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, said, it must be thrown open to all political parties under certain limitations, I would submit it would be a dangerous thing to accept that proposition, but if his suggestion is that the Broadcasting station at Delhi ought to be made available to all, under certain restrictions or limitations, then the suggestion would be readily acceptable....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member seems to be going beyond the supplementary demand.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Therefore, it is open to me now to say that this is the occasion to point out that the Delhi broadcasting station should be thrown open to the public, though not the other stations, on payment of certain fee. Under what head am I to bring it? Sir, even though I accept the principle and I am bound by the principle already accepted, it is still open to me to say that a sum of three lakhs and odd should not be spent, and if I don't object to it now, it will be open to the Government to say "Oh, we have spent away all the money on one important project, and you once again vote 20 lakhs for others". I would, therefore, request that you should, in the fitness of things, rule that this token demand should be withdrawn and a fresh demand for Rs. 3,81,000 should be placed before this House so that opportunity may be given to all Honourable Members to say, there must be a cut under this head, not a token cut on a matter of policy, but a substantial cut, to say that Rs. two lakhs need not be spent on buildings alone, that Rs. two or three lakhs need not be spent on the Delhi station alone, that Rs. 16,500 need not be spent on establishment, and so on.

With respect to other matters, I may make one or two submissions. Even at the time when this fund was created I had my own suspicions, however humble I may be. My suspicions have been confirmed since. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, explained how through broadcasting so much of literature and literacy would be carried to the very doors of the villagers, but he forgot that it involves additional expenditure.

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

This is only for broadcasting, but for each receiving set which the villages will be provided with there will be an additional cost of Rs. 700 or 1,000, and there will be a recurring expenditure of Rs. 15 per month for each set. It requires so much of electric power and what will happen if the place is not a municipality or any station where electric current is not available. My friend forgets there will be an additional demand for nearly one or two crores of rupees, and that will fall upon the taxpayer who is starving for want of money and for want of food. A huge exhibition was held in England with broadcasting materials and other things, and evidently this is a fruitful source of dumping all those materials on India. I would, therefore, say, even with regard to the purchase of materials and accessories, if a foreign country produces those articles, India is made the dumping ground for all those materials. We can very well do without broadcasting for some time, but having accepted the principle in the last Assembly whether we knew the further implications of it or not, let us at best say, and I want to drive home that point, that out of the Rs. 20 lakhs that have been provided in this for the purpose of broadcasting, let some amount be applied for the purpose of encouraging the production of the materials of that industry. If I am not wrong, the exhibition in England was opened by His Majesty the King Emperor, the King of England, and the whole material was taken recently two or three months ago from England to Scotland for the purpose of exhibition, and it was said that it was one of the biggest exhibitions ever held with regard to broadcasting materials and receiving sets. That is their pride. But are we in a position to pride ourselves that in the near future or in the remote future we are producing broadcasting materials and receiving sets? Let our money not be wasted upon purchasing materials from foreign countries and let us not look to the foreign country for the purchase of those materials. If a man purchases a motor car or a receiving set, or even if a present is made of a receiving set to him it means that subsequently he sells himself to the foreign country for purchasing additional materials from time to time. That is our experience. Therefore, I beseech, that a sum of rupees should be set apart from this fund for the purpose of encouraging the production of those materials in this country. Again, in answer to a question put to the Government by an Honourable Member of this House as to whether the expert who was engaged for five years under a contract or agreement is prepared to train a certain number of Indians before his term of office expires, we were told that no such agreement was entered into. I say that such an agreement ought to have been entered into and it must be a condition of his employment that he must train up people here so that they may take his place by the time his service expires and it may not be said that he must be continued for another period of five years because there are no men available to take his place. Let a small school be attached to give instruction in the art of broadcasting so that no additional expenditure may entail upon us in the future. Then I understand there is no definite scheme relating to the entire grant of Rs. 20 lakhs; it is a piecemeal scheme that the Government brings before us. I want information with respect to one matter. The Madras Broadcasting Station is sought to be improved and the Bombay Broadcasting Station is sought to be improved. Who are the owners of the present broadcasting station at Madras? What will become of the apparatus now in existence? Is it by way of subsidy

to that station ? What is the range ? 20 kilometres I am told is the power. In the white paper that was circulated the last time when the fund was created, I found that the ultimate range was only 200 miles. and it is only in the dead of night that one could be able to hear the programme. I do not know how many people will go on sitting till 12 o'clock at night, if it is really to be useful, to catch murmuring sounds, and if there is some atmospheric disturbance even those murmurs could not be heard. It must be seven o'clock or evening if the programme has got to be heard. There must be a sufficiently broad range. When my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitchell, was asked a supplementary question, he said that he was not aware of the range. Even now we have not been supplied with the details. It is said that the power of the broadcasting set is 20 kilowatts or something of the kind, but the range is not given. But I require information as to whether if a programme is got before the Delhi Broadcasting Station at a convenient hour of the day it will be possible for anybody with a receiving set in Cape Comorin to hear it. And if not, let not good money be wasted after bad over such a broadcasting station. Therefore, I would say that the entire manner in which this demand has been placed before the House is not a proper one—not that I am impeaching the very purpose of it, but accepting the purpose, there are still a number of objections that could be raised, a number of suggestions that could be made as to how this Rs. 20 lakhs could be spent instead of being wasted. Therefore, I would ask you to rule that this demand should be withdrawn and a definite and more clear demand should be placed before this House, in order to give Honourable Members an opportunity of making cuts or giving suggestions by means of amendments with respect to each item.

Mr. M. S. Aney : Sir, I feel some difficulty, and I rise to explain that difficulty, in understanding a token demand like this. I am told, and you have explained it, Sir, that this token demand of Rs. 1,000 is really meant to secure the sanction of this House to a sum, which the department requires, namely, Rs. 3,81,000, in the current year to meet expenditure on certain schemes. Though it is a formal or token demand made before us, if that demand is accepted by this House, it means that it is giving its sanction to the expenditure of Rs. 3,81,000 which the department proposes to spend in the manner detailed at page 5 of the Book. Now, the difficulty is this. Some of my Honourable friends have already pointed it out, but I want to emphasise this. Supposing we want to discuss this scheme in detail and we want to suggest that any particular items of expenditure in the scheme, which is going to cost us, in total, a sum of Rs. 3,81,000.—or that any particular part of that scheme is useless or is not wanted, or is wrong, and, therefore, that expenditure should go or be reduced what is the way in which we can make that suggestion before the House now ? The only remedy is to throw out this demand *in toto* or move a token cut of Rs. 10 as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, suggests, and that amount of Rs. 10 is to be understood to mean a sum amounting to even one lakh or more which we may want to cut out of the total expenditure for the scheme. A token cut to a token demand—the whole thing looks so very fictitious. Is it not better for the department to come forward with a demand for the real amount which it wants for the year ? The provisions relating to supplementary grants which are mentioned in rule 49 are meant to require the Government to place for sanction actual esti-

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

mates before this House. It is true that in law the Government have got the right to bring a token demand if they can get that amount by reappropriation from the money already sanctioned. We have sanctioned Rs. 20 lakhs to create a special fund. Therefore Government think that they have got money already on which they can draw to any extent they like and it is not necessary for them to come forward with a demand for the actual amount that is required to be spent during the year as the purpose could be served by a token demand. But when the House demanded an undertaking from the Government before sanctioning the sum of 20 lakhs for the special fund it wanted to be informed of the whole scheme and the entire expenditure to be placed before it for its sanction and to have an opportunity of expressing its opinion, if necessary, on every detail of the scheme. That purpose is defeated to a great extent by the Government by moving a token demand like this. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, suggests that a token cut can be moved. I doubt whether a token cut can serve this purpose effectively. We are giving the Government actual money in hard cash, and why should we then have token demands and token cuts? Let the actual demand be placed before us and let us have a real opportunity of discussing the merits of the scheme and showing that the actual demand is fictitious or extravagant to some extent and can be, therefore, reduced or diminished if necessary. Although in law they have a right to do so, I think it is unfair to this House that the Government should come forward with a token demand like this for a grant which amounts to Rs. 3,81,000. The procedure may be technically legal, but I protest that it is certainly not equitable and fair to this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I find that I am not quite competent to argue to your satisfaction about the point of order raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, in regard to this supplementary demand, although I am in complete agreement with what he has said in maintaining that it was most unfair on the part of this Government to have come forward once for the sanction of this House for a particular fund, then having got that money to come again whenever they like from time to time with various supplementary demands for various schemes of their own. At the same time, I would like to take up this particular Delhi broadcasting station. As far as this Delhi station is concerned, we are not told what sort of staff they are going to have, for how many years they have contracted with foreigners that they have imported into this country to help them run this station and we do not know for what particular purpose this station is going to be utilised. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, is anxious that it should be used for political purposes also. I would certainly have agreed with him if we were enjoying swaraj in this country.

An Honourable Member : Political education.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Unfortunately we know how this Government uses every opportunity that it gets in the way of educating the people.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot make a political speech.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I am not encroaching on your ruling. At the same time I must take the House into my confidence. We were told the other day how the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the House, in connection with Mr. Das' Bill, was circulated all over India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member must confine himself to the supplementary demand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Knowing already how Government will use all the opportunities they get, we are afraid that Government will also misuse this broadcasting station for so-called political education against the Congress and against every progressive movement in the country. I should, therefore, like to know for what particular purpose this broadcasting station in Delhi is going to be utilised.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member ought to have put that question when the grant was asked for.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Unfortunately I am allowed to talk only about this particular broadcasting station. We are asked to grant this money to the Delhi broadcasting station for the first time and I must say a few things about this, however unpalatable it may be to the Treasury Benches on the other side. One particular officer is supposed to be brought out.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot go into the purposes of broadcasting. That is a general question which cannot be discussed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Here is an item of Rs. 27,000. We are not told how this sum is going to be spent. I take it that it is going to be spent on establishment also, including the pay of the particular officer who has been brought out from England or who is going to be brought out. I really wonder where is the necessity for any such officer, because, after all, the Delhi broadcasting station is expected to broadcast in the vernacular such as Hindi and Urdu and this officer should be a man who knows the vernaculars and not an Englishman.

Mr. A. G. Clow : I do not want to stop the flow of eloquence of the Honourable Member but the pay of the officer has nothing to do with the amount under discussion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair should have expected the Honourable Member in charge to explain what this demand is meant for, in which case all these difficulties could have been obviated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : If any officer is brought out from England, he should be brought out only on one condition, that he should train his substitute, so that we may have a broadcasting station run by an Indian and not by a foreigner. Then again take the question of equipment, Rs. 2,58,000. How much of this is going to be spent in India, on Indians and Indian materials and how much is going to be spent abroad and on foreign materials. We ought to have an assurance that the largest portion of this amount is going to be spent in India, for the benefit of Indians and the advancement of Indian industries.

Mr. A. G. Clow : Sir, we have had a long series of disquisitions partly on constitutional and partly on financial questions. I cannot

[Mr. A. G. Chow.]

claim expert knowledge of any of the issues elaborated by Mr. Ayyangar and Mr. Aney but I would suggest to the latter that he was a little hard in suggesting that we have done anything unfair. Actually this Assembly voted a sum to Government of 20 lakhs. At the time, I think the Honourable the Finance Member was asked whether and in what form there would be any control over the detailed expenditure. Speaking from memory, I think, he gave an undertaking that when it was proposed to meet charges from the amount, they would be placed before the Standing Finance Committee. All the items now shown as adjuncts to this token grant have been so placed. As regards the suggestion that we should withdraw the token demand and ask the Assembly to vote three lakhs, assuming that the Assembly concurred in the suggestion, that would be putting three lakhs into our pocket, because you have already been good enough to give us Rs. 20 lakhs and we should have another three lakhs as the result of the vote.

I would like, therefore, to come to what is more within my province. Some questions were raised by various Honourable Members regarding this Delhi station. The Honourable Mr. Satyamurti started off by suggesting that we were embarking on a Rs. 30 lakhs scheme and that the Assembly would later find itself committed to ten lakhs more than it has voted. Now there is a little misapprehension about this. There is a possible comprehensive scheme which would include various items ; it would include, for example, as a very pressing and important part, the provision of 20 kilowatt medium-wave stations at Delhi and Madras and of 20 kilowatt medium-wave transmitters for the existing stations at Bombay and Calcutta. Then there would be four receivers for the four medium-wave stations, and it would be possible to provide four short-wave transmitters. That is what our experts advise as a complete framework for a broadcasting organization. At a very rough estimate they calculated that that would probably come to a sum of about Rs. 30 lakhs. That does not mean, however, that either we or the Assembly are committed to any such comprehensive scheme. And as we believe in proceeding cautiously and seeing that we do not outrun any funds that may be given, the whole position is being reviewed, and there will be no expenditure until after the schemes have been submitted to the Standing Finance Committee. The Assembly may therefore rest assured that the Standing Finance Committee—which, if I may say so, is a place where we can go into much greater detail than the floor of this House—is in a position to exercise a very thorough scrutiny over these matters.

As regards the staff for the station, I tried to interrupt my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, but his flow of words was so profuse that I was unsuccessful. What I wanted to say was that, so far as I am aware, there is no European employed in this station at all. The officer in charge at present is an Indian, and the engineer is an Indian. I think my friend was confusing the control of the station with the headship of the department, for which an officer has recently been imported with experience from the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Does the Government intend to run broadcasting on commercial lines like the Posts and Telegraphs Department ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : That question was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. He suggested that we should have a station where anybody could come in and pay a few rupees and be allowed to transmit his thoughts and ideas over the ether.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Provided they are not objectionable.

Mr. A. G. Clow : Sir, there is a good deal of that in the United States, where you can, I understand, listen to the latest dance music, interspersed with advertisements for baby food and all sorts of advertising matter. But my own conviction is that the British have followed the sounder method, and that with limited possibilities of transmission, limited hours, and limited wave lengths and especially in a country of this kind, broadcasting should be utilized only for cultural and entertainment purposes. I do not think the advertising system is by any means a happy one, and I think we must look for the return from broadcasting in what may be described as "uplift" rather than in the rupees that my Honourable friend wishes to see coming in. At the same time, as my Honourable friend is probably aware, we are only indirectly financing broadcasting services now ; we are at present balancing those services from the import tax on broadcasting apparatus.

Then my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, came finally to the question whether we should use this particular station for political purposes. Sir, that is a difficult and important question. I think he was given part of his answer by Professor Ranga, though I did not agree entirely with the terms in which he put it. I should have thought that if we had come forward with a proposition that the station should be used for political purposes,—and remember that this is a station which, unlike the British system which is under a corporation, is under direct Government control,—if we had come forward with a proposition that it should be used for political purposes, Honourable Members might have felt a little diffident about any station where Government would be able not only to say who is going to speak but would also be able to say what they are going to say. (Hear, hear.) Personally, Sir, I regard the Government's present proposals more in the nature of a self denying ordinance. (Laughter.) I think Honourable Members opposite will agree that they have many megaphones, and that the voice of Government is apt to be a small and occasionally a still voice. (Laughter.) I do not think Government would suffer from the presentation of their case but I do not expect that all Honourable Members would agree entirely with me on that point. There really are fundamental and important difficulties. If there is to be political propaganda, and if you are to choose who are to be the speakers, that is in itself a most difficult task. I do not think my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, himself would feel very happy, even if his own party selected him. If, for instance, two or three speakers were wanted to speak and if my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, were to allow a certain man or some few men to speak, he might be a most unpopular man with 37 or 38 members of his own party. Similarly, if I were to choose from this distinguished House a few persons who were to broadcast their political views, I think I would find myself extremely unpopular after the decision had been made.

Now, Sir, there is a far more difficult question than the choosing of speakers, and that is deciding what they are going to say, because you

[Mr. A. G. Clow.]

obviously cannot put up a speaker and let him say anything he likes. The question of pre-censorship involves great difficulties. I would suggest that even in England this question has not been entirely free from objections, and these objections, I may remind the House, have tended to come from persons in opposition to Government rather than from persons in agreement with Government. In England, it has also to be remembered, their political differences do not go so deep as ours unfortunately do in this country : there is a much larger common basis of what I may call "accepted conceptions". And it is, therefore, easier there than it would be in this country, where you have people with diametrically opposite views, often rather bitterly expressed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have you heard of Churchill ?

Mr. A. G. Clow : I have heard of Churchill. Finally, we are starting off with a new organization, and it would, so to speak, queer the pitch enormously if, at the start, we were entrusted with the task of directing and controlling political propaganda either for or against the Government. It was suggested that we were dependent entirely on the views of a gentleman who had recently arrived from England. That is not at all the position. This matter was very carefully considered a few years ago and what I regard as a self-denying ordinance was the conclusion reached by Government for the time being. I suggest to my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that that is not a necessarily permanent decision for all time. I am very far from saying that wisdom will die with the present generation, with the present Government or with the present people in this House. And if conditions, as they developed, made it desirable to reconsider it, it would always be possible to do that. I am firmly convinced for the present that it is sound that at the very inception of our broadcasting programme we should, as far as possible, keep off grounds which are controversial and which, therefore, must give some offence to some people. (Loud and Prolonged Cheers.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Expenditure on the Development of Broadcasting met from the Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Sir, it is quite obvious from the List of Supplementary Demands what this particular Grant means, but perhaps I should say a few words in further explanation. This grant is required to cover three special inquiries which are to begin this cold weather. One is the Delimitation Committee, to be presided over by Sir Laurie Hammond, the second is the Secretariat Procedure Committee, to be presided over by Sir Henry Wheeler, and the third is a special financial inquiry to be con-

ducted by Sir Otto Niemeyer. Press Communiqués have been issued about all these, and the facts of each of them are well-known to Honourable Members of this House, but I thought I would just like to explain that the money is required for the voted portion of the expenses of these three inquiries. Sir, I move.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’.”

Delimitation Committee—General Policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

I move this amendment to discuss the general policy concerning the Delimitation Committee. Honourable Members will find details of it at page 6 of this green book, where the voted grant asked for now is Rs. 86,000. Now, Sir, this Delimitation Committee was appointed by His Majesty's Government and the announcement was made on 31st July last. Thanks to the courtesy of the Honourable the Law Member I have with me a copy of the terms of reference to this Committee. I am not suggesting, by my own motion that this Committee ought not to have been appointed nor have I anything to say against the personnel of this Committee as such. The franchise proposals for the Provincial and Federal Legislatures under the Government of India Act have got to be worked out by some committee or other, and this Committee may be as good as any other committee. My point is that the manner in which the material is being prepared for this Committee, the manner in which certain questions are being disposed of by the various Provincial Governments in consultation with the Provincial Delimitation Committees which they have set up, and the answers which I have received from the Honourable the Leader of the House, on more than one occasion to my original and supplementary questions as to the possibility of this House not being consulted at any time before these proposals are given statutory effect by the British Parliament, these are the points which I want to raise by means of this own motion of mine. This Committee, Sir, is entrusted by His Majesty's Government with the task of preparing a complete scheme of delimitation for territorial constituencies, together with the proposals for the nature of the allocation of special constituencies, to use a compendious phrase. Now, Sir, the provisions of the Government of India Act governing these matters are naturally very elementary. They have left the most important question to be decided on the recommendation of the Delimitation Committee later by the British Parliament. Section 18 of the Government of India Act, sub-section (3), prescribes merely this, that “ the representatives of the Council of State shall be chosen in accordance with the provisions in this behalf contained in the first Schedule to this Act ”, and then, when we turn to the Schedule, we find that the proposals are hereafter to be prescribed. They simply say that of these 156 seats to be filled by representatives of British India, 150 seats shall be allocated to the Governor's Provinces, Chief Commissioners' Provinces, etc. ; and according to rule 5, there will be territorial constituencies and they have got to prescribe hereafter all these various qualifications. Curiously enough, at a very late stage, in the House of Lords, Lord Zetland accepted the method of direct

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

election for the Council of State or the Federal Upper House as it is called. I shall be obliged to the Honourable the Law Member if he can give us information, if he is in a position to do so, with regard to the points which His Majesty's Government stated will be decided before this Committee started investigation. Sir, this is what they say :

“ Lists of castes and tribes, including the scheduled castes in the various Provinces and the qualifications of voters for the Council of State and the Provincial Upper House have yet to be determined ; while unfortunately the detailed investigation required in connection with franchise will involve some further delay, His Majesty's Government hope that before your investigation commences, it will be in a position to inform you of the recommendations which they propose to publish for the information of Parliament on all these matters and they desire that your investigations should provisionally proceed on the basis of these recommendations.”

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : As regards those informations, I am afraid I am not in a position to give any further information. My Honourable friend was good enough to write to me yesterday giving me three points which we shall discuss here for which I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend. I am quite prepared to deal with these three points. In fact, if I may say so with great respect, they are quite substantial points. I am sorry I have no further information in my possession.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I do not find fault with the Honourable the Law Member for that. I simply asked a question and if he can give me further information, I shall be much obliged. If not, I shall take a suitable opportunity to get that information. Then, Sir, with regard to the Federal Assembly, all the qualifications have been prescribed with regard to electors, and seats have been allotted to the various Provinces, but these constituencies have yet to be delimited for all these electorates. What has happened now is this. In various Provinces, and certainly in my Province of Madras, the Local Governments have appointed what are called Consultative or Advisory Committees for making recommendations for the Provincial franchise and constituencies and the members for these committees have been selected mostly from the Legislative Councils. I want to remind the House of a fact which they all know, that in most Provinces and certainly in mine, these Councils have over-stayed their time by nearly three years. They were elected about six years ago. They should have ceased to hold office three years after that. They are now merely nominated Members of the Governors of those various Provinces. They are no longer there in any representative capacity, and yet the Provincial Governments, for reasons best known to themselves, have chosen mostly Members from those Provincial Legislatures who represent nobody but themselves ; and in my Province they have chosen for the Chairmanship of that Committee a gentleman whom we had the honour of defeating at the polls about six years ago. Somehow or other, this Government seems to feel that whoever is defeated at the polls is peculiarly competent to give them advice on fundamental matters. It is a thing which no democrat can understand, but it is only this Government which can understand it. The other day, I referred to Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar whom I had the honour of defeating in the name of the Congress ; and when I asked why he was appointed on the Tariff Board, my Honourable friend the Commerce Member said that he was a very excellent man. Very well, he may be,

but I take it that these gentlemen are appointed, not because they are geniuses in electoral problems or because they are great authorities on democratic constitutions and how they work, but because they are presumed to represent the opinions of the people of this country.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Was not Gladstone or Balfour defeated ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I think the Honourable the Leader of the House, even by a flight of imagination, cannot compare either himself or me to the distinguished members of the British Parliament. Gladstone and Balfour defeated each other on fundamental issues for the benefit of their country. We defeat the other candidates, because we consider them to be enemies of the country. They in England are all friends of their country, but differ only on programmes and not on betraying or serving their country. We defeat those men who betray our country.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The defeated say, you are misleading and betraying the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member need not pursue that matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Yes, Sir, I will not proceed with the point ; but I suggest that to appoint to a provincial committee to make proposals on these fundamental problems men whom the electorate, have rejected is certainly not getting at public opinion. Then, Sir, what happened is this. These provincial committees make proposals and they are accepted by the Government with or without modifications, and this unfortunate committee,—I say nothing against the personnel,—which starts work in October is compelled by His Majesty's Government to report early in January. I will read that paragraph :

“ His Majesty's Government desire me in conclusion to impress upon you the great importance of completing your investigations at as early a date as possible. As you are aware, it will be necessary for His Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of your Committee, to submit detailed proposals for consideration by both Houses of Parliament, and until Parliament has taken a decision on those recommendations it will not be possible to proceed with the first requisite for the introduction of the new provincial constitution, namely, the preparation of electoral rules. It is thus of great importance that no avoidable delay should occur in making available to His Majesty's Government the recommendations of your Committee. They fully recognise the arduous character of the task which your Committee will be required to perform and the short space of time into which those inquiries must be compressed. But, as you are aware, much preparatory work of the greatest value has already been performed by the Provincial Governments and by the committees which they have associated with their provisional investigations. The results of those investigations will be available to you and His Majesty's Government feel no doubt that you will find them not only of much value in themselves but of such a character as materially to lighten your labours.”

That alarms me. This Committee is sent out, and I know they will be here for about three months, and they have got to deal with eleven provinces, and I think in about seven or nine of them, there are going to be bi-cameral Legislatures, and there will be two Legislatures here ; and they have got to make proposals for all these constituencies, delimitation, and also the manner of voting, labour representation, women's representation, commerce, landholders, university, and so on and so forth. What will happen is that these reports of the various provincial committees will be thrust upon them ; but I hope

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they will be able to see through them and make proposals which will satisfy the general requirements of a genuine democratic electorate. But I am afraid from the way in which these Provincial committees are being set up and are working and the Provincial Governments are agreeing with them and publishing their proposals, that they may stampee these people.

Now, Sir, I am not familiar with the proposals in other provinces, but I know just two or three features of the proposals made by the Madras provincial committee and accepted by the Madras Provincial Government. They have recommended a system called the single non-transferable vote in plural constituencies. The Madras scheme is that they are going to have a certain number of single-member constituencies and no question of double voting arises there. Then, they are going to have two sets of double-member constituencies, some of which are for representing the *Harijans* under the Poona Pact. They get in the province about 30 seats, and for them there will be 30 constituencies provided. So far so good! But then they have ingeniously recommended what is called the single non-transferable vote. I speak, subject to correction, but I think that in no country with whose constitution I am familiar, there is this device of what is called the single non-transferable vote. Except the country of Spain, where I am told this occurs, but which has lost its democracy, I think that in the British Empire, confining myself to the British Empire, now, there is no such thing as this. Moreover, I think in a country like India, where for the first time millions of people are being enfranchised, most of them illiterate, a simple system of voting, with which they have been familiar all these years, is much better than all these fancy devices. Even with regard to the much better scheme of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, the Lothian Committee rejected that scheme.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member really want to discuss these questions? This is a much wider issue and can hardly be discussed on a motion like this.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We are dealing with elections and constituencies.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But this Committee will deal with the delimitation of constituencies.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir, with voting also. I will read the sentence:

“The point is however one which your Committee will no doubt consider in the light of local conditions and of the views expressed by the various provinces concerned. His Majesty’s Government would however be glad if in any case in which you think it desirable to recommend the establishment of a multi-member constituency you will consider the use of the single non-transferable vote, a question which, as you are aware, has attracted considerable attention in discussions in Parliament on the Government of India Bill.”

That is one of the terms of reference of this Hammond Committee. They are asked to recommend, *inter alia*, what system of voting should prevail in what are known as multi-member constituencies; and I am

submitting to you and to this House that, even with regard to the much better known device of the single transferable vote in a system of proportionate representation, the Lothian Committee on the whole expressed themselves against it :

“ It has many forms, from that of the single transferable vote in constituencies returning three to five members (or alternatively of the single non-transferable vote) to the system of cumulative voting. Public opinion throughout the world has not as yet come to any clear conclusion on the matter, for both systems are in operation in different countries. But, broadly, it may be said that the single member system tends to provide stable party majorities in the legislatures, and to be more convenient for voter and candidate as the constituencies are smaller, while the proportional system gives a fairer representation of opinion but multiplies parties and magnifies the size of constituencies ”, etc.

Then, Sir with regard to the cumulative vote they have recommended that in all multi-member constituencies and for this reason :

“ Under this system every voter will have the right to use as many votes as there are candidates. He may use these votes as he desires, ‘ plumping ’ them all for one candidate or distributing them. This method can be adopted whether the ‘ coloured box ’ system is used or not.”

My submission is this. The system of voting now prevalent in
 4 P.M. Madras for all elections, including the local bodies, the local Legislature and to this House is what is known as the distributive system. Each voter has as many votes as there are seats to be filled up by candidates. He is free to give his votes to the maximum of the seats which have to be filled up, or he may give one or two, if the seats are “ three ”. But the Lothian Committee recommend the system now prevailing in the city of Bombay, namely, a voter can give two votes to one candidate if there are two seats to be filled up. Therefore, the Lothian Committee recommends the principle that every voter must have as many votes as there are seats to be filled up, whereas the single non-transferable vote means that each voter has only one vote ; and it is worse in the case of the single non-transferable vote : because, in the case of the single transferable vote if the candidate for whom he has given his first vote is either elected by the required quota, or is eliminated by getting less than the minimum, the second and third votes automatically get transferred to others. Even that is absent in the case of the single non-transferable vote. But, apart from the undemocratic nature of this device, my most serious objection to this is that it violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the Poona Pact, on which Mahatma Gandhi staked his life, and to which His Majesty’s Government is a consenting party. Even the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which went into this question, although it expressed some doubts about the superiority of the Poona Pact to the Communal Award, ultimately recommended acceptance of the Poona Pact under the then existing circumstances, although they expressed a hope that, so far as Bengal is concerned some settlement might be possible. So far as the Poona Pact is concerned, the essence of that Pact is this : that Hindus and the so-called depressed classes should vote together in the same constituencies, that the caste Hindu must go to the so-called depressed classes and the so-called depressed classes should go to the caste Hindu for their vote, so that in course of time, to the extent to which political education can do it, these distinctions may be wiped out or at least forgotten, and the Hindu community may develop solidarity among itself. In the case of

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the single non-transferable vote, what will happen is this : that each voter will be sued only by his own castemen, be he caste Hindu or depressed class man, for his vote. He has only one vote, and, therefore, the whole spirit of the Poona Pact will be destroyed. I gladly recognise that this is not the last word on the subject ; but I do plead with the House and with the Honourable the Law Member that, if the Poona Pact is to be observed, not only in letter but in spirit, this single non-transferable vote must go. It serves no purpose whatever, and will accentuate differences between the caste Hindus and the so-called depressed classes. They are really recreating separate electorates for the depressed classes.

My next point, which I have also given to my Honourable friend, the Law Member, is about the representation proposed for universities in the provincial Legislatures. Sir, personally, I feel that the ideal system of representation ought to be one man one vote, that all special constituencies for landlords, for commercial magnates, and for various other classes including universities, ought to go. But that is not in our power just now. The Government of India Act contemplates all this representation. The present system prevalent in Madras is this : that all registered graduates, that is to say graduates of seven years' standing, those who have graduated seven years before the date of the election, get the right to elect their representatives to the Madras Legislative Council. But the provincial committee have recommended and the Provincial Government have accepted a curious proposal, by which all these graduates will be disfranchised hereafter, and the franchise will be confined to the senates of the three universities, Madras, Annamalai, and Andhra. These three senates between them comprise about 400 to 500 names : today, the constituency is 15,000 to 20,000 in number ; and while, in every other direction the franchise proposals contemplate extension of the franchise, in this case only, it is intended to restrict the franchise from 15 000 to 20,000, to 400 or 500 people....

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Because you were returned from that constituency.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : a third of whom happen to be nominated by the Governor of the province. It does seem to me that it is certainly going backward. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, reminds me that that constituency committed the mortal sin of returning me. Yes. They returned me, once by an overwhelming majority, and again unopposed ; but I plead, in extenuation of that, that while undoubtedly I plead guilty to the charge of being a Congress politician, I happened and still happen to belong to the Universities of both Madras and Annamalai, as a member of the Senate, Syndicate, and of the Academic Council, of both the Universities ; and I claim to be a University man, just as much as any other man can claim to be a University man. My predecessors were my friend, Mr. C. R. Reddy, whom the Government appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, and Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar who was a distinguished member of the Senate of the Madras University. Therefore, the argument that the graduates all have returned non-university politicians does not stand any examination. The real reason is this : "hope springs eternal in the human

breast", as some one said the other day : and my friends of one political party in my province, afraid of facing large electorates, want to create at least one pocket borough for themselves ; and, therefore, they make this extraordinary proposal that we should have a constituency of 400 or 500 people in the place of something between 15,000 and 20,000 people. I do plead that this kind of going back on the general extension of the franchise is not consistent with the entire scheme of the Lothian franchise.

I want to make only one more point. I think I asked the Honourable the Law Member, more than once, for some kind of undertaking that these proposals after the Hammond Committee have evolved them, and before the Government forward them to His Majesty's Government with their recommendations, should be placed before this House. I could not get a very satisfactory answer. I want to urge one argument, if I may, as to why these proposals even for the provincial Legislatures should be placed before this House for their approval or for their expression of opinion. Apart from the interests of this House as representing all the provinces, this House is directly concerned with at least the franchise for the Provincial Lower House ; as you know, the Provincial Lower Houses are the electorates for the Federal Lower House. They are the people who are going to elect those who will succeed us on these Benches. Surely, this House has some interest in knowing how these electors of Members of this Honourable House are going to be elected in their turn by their own constituencies ; and, therefore, it does seem to me that this is a matter on which this House may ask to be consulted.

There are subsidiary problems concerning women's representation, labour representation, and other problems, with which I do not propose to deal because I have not given notice, but undoubtedly there are these three points : the need for giving this House an opportunity, at a suitable time, before the Government makes up its mind finally, to express its own opinion on the Hammond Committee's proposals, the proposal of the single non-transferable vote in multi-member constituencies returning *Harijan* and caste Hindu candidates which is against the spirit if not the letter of the Poona Pact, and the proposed restriction of the university franchise. These three are matters on which I think this House is entitled to a satisfactory answer from the Honourable the Law Member representing the Government. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Amendment moved :

" That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 in respect of ' Miscellaneous ' be reduced by Rs. 100."

There are several notices of amendments with respect to the other portions of the demand. There is one about Special Commissions of Inquiry, Special Financial Inquiry. This Delimitation question should perhaps be discussed first.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I know, Sir, if this demand includes also the grant for Sir Otto Niemeyer's Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : That comes later under this head.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The whole demand.....

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I propose to deal with three points raised by my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, of which he gave us notice yesterday and which he has discussed today. As regards the point about the single non-transferable vote, that if that is accepted, it will be opposed to the spirit of the Poona Pact, and I am not in a position to entirely differ from him though expressing no opinion of my own. My reading of the situation is this. Under the Fifth Schedule of the Government of India Act, para. 6,—I need not read the section,—where a seat is reserved for scheduled castes, there must be at least one unreserved seat. That is the operation of section 6, and I tried to work it out by an example to see if my friend's point has substance, although I said I may not be in a position to entirely differ from him. I took the example of a constituency where there is one reserved and one unreserved seat, and I also, for purposes of working it out and having a clear idea, took as hypothesis that there are 50 scheduled caste votes and 50 caste Hindu votes. I started on the footing that the system is of single non-transferable vote. The position is that 50 scheduled caste voters must select at a primary election 4 candidates.—and I shall call them A, B, C and D. They are elected by the 50 scheduled caste voters. There is also unreserved seat and supposing there are two candidates, X and Y, for it the position seems to be this. The election proceeds simultaneously with regard to both these seats. Now, if each voter has a single non-transferable vote, of course there is nothing in the law and the Schedule to prevent a caste Hindu from voting for the scheduled castes or *vice versa*, but the probability is that a caste Hindu will vote for a caste Hindu X or Y, while a scheduled caste man will vote for his caste fellow. If that is the position, then the result will be,—I have worked it out again.—this. Supposing X has got 30 caste Hindu votes and Y has got 20 caste Hindu votes, 50 being split up between X and Y ; and A, B, C and D. and assume for the sake of argument, they get 20, 10, 10 and 10 respectively. The result will be that X has been really elected solely by caste Hindu votes, and A, out of A, B, C and D has been elected wholly by scheduled caste votes. Therefore, there may be some force in the contention urged by some Honourable Members, that the result is as if there have been two separate electorates in the Hindu constituency. I said, Sir, to that extent I am not prepared to entirely differ from my friend. And I also worked it out, on the other footing—I will not tire the House by taking them through figures,—and find that if it were a transferable vote, then one section will be likely to influence the other section. To that extent, I may be able to agree with my friend. But my point is this. As my friend himself read out, this is one of the matters which has been specially referred to the Hammond Committee under section 6 of the terms of reference. Therefore, the position is that there is nothing to prevent anybody from making a representation to the Hammond Committee now urging the point which my friend opposite so lucidly argued in this House. All that we can do now,—I do not venture to give any advice,—but all that we can do now is to point out that it is open to anybody to urge these grounds before the Hammond Committee. But if my friend's real object is to draw attention to the fact that this single non-transferable vote will operate against the spirit of the Poona Pact, then

all his arguments here, I daresay, will be considered by the Hammond Committee either *suo motu* or somebody will place all these arguments and these proceedings before them. As the Hammond Committee will judge, I need not express any considered opinion on this matter.

Then, Sir, a similar observation applies to the second point which he took, namely the restriction of franchise for the University seat. I express no personal opinion, because I really ought not to express any personal opinion in this House, in a matter, which has been referred to Hammond Committee, but the point is there. My friend points out that the graduates' franchise of a seven years' standing is gone and it is now limited or restricted. Again, I say, Sir, this is a matter which ought to be considered, and I am sure, it will be considered by the Hammond Committee, and it is open to those who are interested in getting the views of the Local Government upset by the Hammond Committee, to influence that Committee by their arguments and by representations and achieve the result desired by them.

As regards the third point as to whether this House will have an opportunity to discuss this question, I did make a clear statement, but that is not satisfactory to my friend. What I did say was that, if I may use the colloquial expression, so far as the federal part of the thing was concerned, that would be placed before this House for discussion. There was a clear undertaking or promise that this House would be given an opportunity for discussing those portions. What my friend is dissatisfied with is, that I could not give an undertaking as regards the provincial part. As regards provincial part, I was not in a position to give a definite undertaking that it will come up before this House for discussion, and if I am not even now in a position to give any definite assurance that that will be done, some of my reasons are these. I do not for one moment suggest that this House is not at all interested in the provincial portion. I am not taking up that attitude, but I must say that it is not a matter of primary concern to this House. I am not taking my stand entirely on that. Another of the objections will be that if we undertake to have this discussed in the Central Legislature, to say nothing of the time that may be taken here, we have got to remember that as regards the federal portion there is no such great hurry as regards the provincial portion, and our fear, apart from other reasons, which I indicated in answer to supplementary questions—our fear, if we give an undertaking, is that it may result in the inauguration of the provincial autonomy being delayed, because there will be discussion in this House, later on that has got to be considered, then it has got to be sent up before any final action could be taken. That is one of my reasons, in addition to the reasons which I gave before, for my inability to give an undertaking to this House that the provincial part will be discussed. But the undertaking which I gave before, I do not want to go back upon and that still remains—that the discussion of the federal portion will be placed before this House. I have nothing more to add. I once more beg to draw the attention of Honourable Members that the Hammond Committee is just arriving and all these arguments should really be placed forcibly before them by those who are interested in the matter.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs : Non-Muhammadan Urban) :
In rising to support this amendment I wish to say a few words about

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.]

Bengal. In that province a delimitation committee was appointed some time ago and the Government of Bengal made certain additions and alterations in the report submitted by that committee. Both the report of the committee and the additions and alterations which were made by the Government of Bengal have been found to be very unsatisfactory. One of the most unsatisfactory features of the proposals of the Government of Bengal relates to the University franchise in Bengal. At the present moment this franchise extends to a membership of over 10,000 persons. The Government of Bengal proposes that in future the franchise should be restricted only to the members of the Senate and to those registered graduates who have paid their subscriptions at the rate of Rs. ten a year for the last two years. The result of the acceptance of this proposal will be that the franchise will be restricted to about 300 persons. Is it justifiable to reduce the number of voters from 10,000 to 300? People in Bengal say that this is an attempt to create a pocket borough and I believe there is a great deal of truth in this statement. Then, Sir, there are certain inconveniences which the voters in the different parts of the country, particularly in the mofussil of Bengal, will have to suffer. In order that these defects may be removed, it would be right and proper that the report of the Hammond Committee should be considered by this House. The Honourable the Law Member pointed out the difficulty of the Assembly being consulted in a matter of this kind. It will involve delay, he says. But, even if there be some delay, this matter is of such great importance that this House should not be deprived of an opportunity of being consulted. There is another consideration which urges me to make this suggestion. The Bengal Legislative Council has been in existence for over six years. This is the seventh year of its existence; and we all know that in 1930 nearly one-third of the number of members of that Council resigned their seats and these seats were filled by persons who belong to a particular school of political thought. That House has, therefore, ceased to be representative, and it is not right and proper that the question of franchise in Bengal should be considered by the Bengal Legislative Council as it is at present constituted. For these reasons I suggest that the report of the Hammond Committee in all its aspects should be considered by the Assembly.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi (Assam Valley : Non-Muhammadian) : I also want to join my voice to that of Dr. Banerjea regarding one matter which concerns Assam. A delimitation committee was set up to consider about the franchise in Assam and it decided how the four labour seats should be distributed. Now, we all know that in Assam there are labourers in tea gardens and labourers in the factories. There are also labourers who go and work in the tea gardens from outside. The delimitation committee has come to the conclusion that labourers who live inside the tea gardens would select a *mukhi* (representative) from among them. In each tea garden the labourers will select a *mukhi*, and from a group of tea gardens several *mukhis* will come together and select one man. The effect will be that the labourer who will be selected will be directly under the planters. Any one, who has got any idea of what tea plantations in Assam are, knows that the tea gardens are a sort of kingdom by themselves. Without the permission of the manager or the sub-manager nobody can get into the

tea garden ; not to say of the labourers, the *mohurrirs*, the clerks, etc., are also just under the thumb of the manager. In such circumstances these four seats will be a sort of a present to the planters. The planters—Europeans and others—have already got too much representation. This outstanding fact that the labourers are not being represented by their own men or that they will not be able to do anything freely is patent on the face of it. As a matter of fact, the labourers who work in the factories outside tea gardens are not included among the voters. The labourers who remain outside the tea gardens but go and work inside the tea gardens as day labourers are not included, but only the labourers who live inside the tea gardens would be able to select. Under these circumstances it is a great wrong done. As my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, has said, the Council which is sitting now is an old Council sitting for about six years. Many of the members of that Council resigned some time back and the present Council is not considered to be representative of the opinion of the people. So, I hope that the report of the Hammond Committee will be discussed in this House in all its aspects and in that way only justice may be done.

Pandit Nilakantha Das : I cannot claim here that I have got any provincial Council. Perhaps after next January or April we shall not share even in the Bihar and Orissa Council as it is at present constituted. We have got ten members in all in the Bihar and Orissa Council, out of whom one is a zemindar and one is nominated. The only eight members were elected, as in all other provincial Councils, six years ago.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

In other provinces, there are Councils, be they nominal or substantial, where this delimitation and other associated questions will be discussed as has been just said by the Honourable the Law Member but I do not know how provinces like Orissa and Sind will get an opportunity for considering the report of the Delimitation Committee. We are given to understand that a small Council of these ten members will be formed in Orissa from the beginning of the next year, i.e., even before the new Constitution is introduced. And these members, who will be *de facto* nominated members so to say, should not be considered competent for obvious reasons to consider at all the delimitation question in Orissa. I believe that is also the case with Sind. So, as two new provinces are going to be formed and they have no Councils, nominal or substantial, where this question can be discussed, I press particularly that the Hammond Committee should be made to take note of this important aspect of the question, and that an opportunity ultimately should be given to this House to consider the report of the Delimitation Committee. With these few words, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Some of the proposals of the Madras Delimitation Committee had been criticised adequately and rightly by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, but there are certain other aspects of the recommendations of not only that Committee, but also of the Committees in various other provinces, which I would like to touch upon in the few minutes at my disposal. I find that the urban classes have been given too much weightage and too much representation in the Constitution that we have had till now and also the Constitution which we are going to get.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

I can understand if the citizens of a few towns are given some separate representation for themselves, but, Sir, it is impossible for any one to justify the kind of double representation that they get by, first of all, having some members to be elected by themselves, and, then, again, having the right to take part in the election for the whole of the district in which they also can vote. In that way, they are able to vote twice, once for their own candidate for their own town, and a second time for the candidates that stand for the whole of the district of which their town happens to be a part. This is a great injustice to the rural classes, and I hope that the Central Delimitation Committee will take note of it and will see that these urban classes are either merged in the masses in the country or kept separate in their own separate constituencies and are not given any special weightage and votes to be exercised in the general constituencies also.

Secondly, coming to the question of women, I find that the Lothian Committee had recommended that the wives of property owners, who are voters, should also be given votes, that is, the able bodied women and the women of proper age ; but the Madras Government as well as the Delimitation Committee have concluded that such women need not have any votes at all, and, in that way, they propose to restrict the right of women to gain votes even to the extent that was permitted and granted by the Lothian Committee. Then, again, the women of the whole of the Madras Presidency are to have only six seats, but I find from the recommendations of the Madras Delimitation Committee that the urban classes of two towns in one district, Coconada and Rajahmundry alone, are to have the privilege of electing two women, and the rest of the Presidency, men and women taken together, are to elect only four women. Sir, this really curtails the privilege of women and also makes it impossible for the women of the rest of the province to enjoy even this little bit of a privilege that has been offered to them by the Joint Parliamentary Committee as well as by Parliament. Sir, I suspect that this is proposed, because the Madras Delimitation Committee does not want women who represent progressive opinions and who stand for progressive causes, who have had the courage to go to jail, who have had the courage of standing for the country, and, therefore, have won the praise and the love of the masses. They want to restrict the choice of these two women to these two towns where they hope that their own loyalists would have some chance, and, incidentally, by fixing these two seats for women from these two towns, the importance of towns in Madras is brought out, and it is made too much of, because the Madras Ministry as well as the Madras Government seem to be more fond of the urban classes than of the rural classes.

Coming to the question of labour representation, I find myself unfortunately in disagreement with some of my labour friends and leaders in the country. Unfortunately for us, the leaders of labour who represented labour at the Round Table Conference have not paid much attention to unorganised labour, especially the labour which is not employed in factories. Government have been under the impression till now, and, wrongly so, that only those who are employed in organised factories, especially those factories which have been brought under the operation of the Factories Act, are to be considered to be labourers, and others need not be recognised at all as labourers and may as well be ignored. This

has resulted in these unfortunate millions and millions of labourers not being recognised by this Constitution and finding no place at all in any of the Provincial Councils. I want to know what is to happen to all these handloom weavers whom, I am sure, my labour friends as well as the Government of India will accept to be workers. According to Government records, they number more than ten millions in this country. What is to happen to them? Where do they come in? They are not to have any seat at all in any of these Provincial Councils, and how are they to be represented, Sir? As things now are, because there are certain seats in every province which are thrown open for nomination, the Local Governments have tried, in some provinces at least, to give some representation to the handloom weavers, but, tomorrow, when you get this "provincial autonomy", you will find that the Provincial Governments will not have any choice at all in nominating any of these handloom weavers to the local Assemblies, and, what is more, they would not be able to have votes or to have their own representatives in the Legislatures. Sir, I know that the special representation that has been granted for labour in this country is really too inadequate, and I would certainly like that it should be doubled, if not trebled, but unfortunately I know also that this Government is not amenable to reason, and this Government has already made up its mind, and once this Government has made up its mind, it is as obstinate as the Himalayas. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, Sir, I would like the Government to bring to the attention of the Delimitation Committee the necessity for granting some representation for all these millions of workers who are unorganized, who have not got many friends to speak for them, either in the Central Legislature or in the Provincial Legislatures, and who are not able to look after themselves, who are not even able to approach the provincial Delimitation Committees with their needs and demands and to ask that they are given some representation from out of the special representation that is set apart for labour, even if this Government cannot make up its mind to allot some more seats to labour as a whole.

Then, Sir, even in regard to the so-called organized labour, the Government is playing ducks and drakes. The Madras Delimitation Committee is hard put to it to see that the real leaders of organized labour do not get into the future provincial Legislative Assembly. All these Committees are doing their very best to see that labour is divided against itself, and that the real leaders are flouted by everybody, and that the so-called leaders of labour, who are simply those who declare themselves to be leaders basking in the sunshine of official favour and favouritism, get every chance of getting admission to these Councils. (Hear, hear.) Sir, there is a distinguished friend of mine who had the honour of representing organized labour at the Round Table Conference along with my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. G'ri. That is Mr. Shiva Rao, who sent in his memorandum to the Madras Delimitation Committee, but somehow it has so happened that his memorandum has been mislaid, and one of the members of that Committee, a Knight of this British Empire, has given out to the Press a wrong statement supposed to be the views of my friend, Mr. Shiva Rao, according to which only the self-styled and ministry-made leaders of labour can get into the Legislative Assembly of the Madras Presidency, and not the real leaders of labour. I, therefore, Sir, would suggest that the Central Delimitation Committee should be

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

asked to go in detail and very carefully into the recommendations as well as the materials gathered by these provincial Delimitation Committees, and see that no injustice is done to any section of the people of this country and also try to realize justice to the fullest degree that they can really achieve it, in trying to secure proper representation for labour in the future Central as well as Provincial Legislatures.

Sir, I sincerely hope that the Central Delimitation Committee will be given a *carte blanche* for investigating into these problems, and I may express the hope that they are expected patiently to hear the representations of various classes of people and that they are also expected to present their report, not only to this Government, but also to this Legislature, so that the Central Legislature can have a final say in regard to its own proposals. Sir, it is most essential that this Legislature should be given every possible opportunity and every assistance in discharging its functions and responsibilities to the masses who have sent the Honourable Members here, so that it would be possible for this Legislature to assure itself that no injustice, even within the terms of this unsatisfactory Constitution Act that we have, is caused either to the millions of handloom weavers and other cottage workers numbering millions in this country or to the voiceless organized and unorganized labour, drawn from men, women and children and from all over India. (Loud Applause.)

Several Honourable Members : I move that the question be now put.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria : Sir, under the new Federal Assembly, one seat only has been reserved for Indian commerce in Bengal, which, I submit, is totally inadequate to represent the diverse and in fact considerable interests of Indian commerce in Bengal. Sir, the Bengal Delimitation Committee has recommended that an electoral college of fifteen persons should be formed consisting of :

- six members elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.
- three members elected by the Bengal Mahajan Sabha,
- three members elected by our Marwari Association, and
- three members elected by the Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

And they have proposed that these persons should elect one member for the Federal Assembly. So it will be seen that if members of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal Mahajan Sabha combine together, then there is no chance whatsoever for a member of the Marwari Association or the Muslim Chamber ever being elected to the Federal Assembly of the future. Sir, I think this is a very impossible and unfair position, and we cannot possibly tolerate this, Sir. Sir, the community to which I belong, the Marwari community, has very large commercial interests at stake in Bengal—much more in fact than those represented by any of the other Chambers of Commerce, *viz.*, either the Bengal National Chamber, or the Bengal Mahajan Sabha, or the Muslim Chamber of Commerce. Sir, at the present moment the practice obtaining is this, that the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal Mahajan Sabha and our Association send one representative here, by rotation. I think that this wholesome practice should be retained,

because thus only will each association have a chance of sending its representative here. Otherwise, Sir, there will be no chance for the Malwari Association or the Muslim Chamber to send a representative here.

Several Honourable Members : I move that the question be now put

[At this stage, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant rose to speak.]

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhii Chandra Datta) : As there are only a few minutes left, and, after all, we cannot conclude this debate today, the Chair does not think it is necessary to accept the closure. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions. Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I have risen to make a few remarks lest my silence should be misunderstood. I presume that these proceedings will attract the notice of the President and members of the Hammond Committee, and that is why I consider it necessary to intervene in this debate. Sir, we of the Congress are interested in the matter as the Congress has practically decided to capture the Legislatures. What use we will make of them has not yet been determined or decided. Anyway, Honourable Members opposite need not worry about that ; that is more or less a domestic question for us to decide. But we would like the constituencies to be formed in a reasonable manner. Sir, I regret to say that, so far as my Province is concerned, I am convinced, and so are many others, that there is a deliberate design to so de-limit the constituencies as to keep out every person who is suspected of holding an advanced or progressive thought or opinion in the Province. (Hear, hear.) There is a systematic conspiracy to this end and it is countenanced by the high and the mighty, if not initiated by them with a view to have only tame Legislatures and docile Cabinets even under the farcical scheme of reforms which finds place in the Government of India Act. As a prelude to that constituencies are being sought to be so formed that any man possessed of advanced views and real stamina may be kept out to the extent it is possible for those who are managing and manœuvring the affairs today to so arrange things. The Delimitation conference was so shamelessly packed that Mr. C. Y. Chintamani had to ask the Government to be excused from serving on that committee. Every effort is being made to form pocket boroughs so that zamindars may make full use of their position and influence with their dependent tenantry and so far as possible their return may be facilitated and ensured. In fact I have been told that the candidates, whom those in power want to be returned, have been either finally selected or approved tentatively and now the constituencies are being so formed as to facilitate things for all and for each of them. That, Sir, is the report and from what I have seen and heard I am inclined to believe it. I submit, Sir, that is not the spirit in which I presume the Government in England wants the scheme to be worked. We have been repeatedly told by the Secretary of State that he is anxious to see goodwill restored. Well, political opinions and political controversies apart, there are certain fundamental principles of conduct and elementary canons of decency and honesty which should not be departed from by people in any walk of life. Even Governments, however much they may be addicted to machinations, are expected to adopt a minimum standard of integrity.

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I will not say more in this connection. I expect that the Hammond Committee and, before that Committee comes, those in charge of the affairs in the Government of India will take some trouble to find out how far the reports that I have referred to are correct.

There is only one other point which I should like to bring to the notice of the authorities. Sir, I think the time has come when the system of voting by ballot should be made real and genuine. (Hear, hear.) So far as voting in the Provinces is concerned, I find there is no vote by ballot at all. About 80 per cent. of the voters who belong to rural areas are illiterate and they have to openly declare their preference for one candidate for whom they want to vote. They have to do so in the presence of the agents of the candidates. It is obvious enough that it is a travesty of the system of voting by ballot. I suggest that the system that obtains in Behar under which there are different colours assigned to different candidates and the voters have simply to put the ballot paper without any mark whatsoever into the box bearing the colour of the candidate for whom he wants to vote is almost perfect. It can be adopted without any difficulty and the most unsophisticated and illiterate person can easily put in his ballot paper in the box bearing the colour of the candidate for whom he wants to vote. Sir, I need not take more time at this hour.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Mr. President, the discussion that was initiated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, has somehow or other stimulated the parochial activity of every part of the House and every person has stood up representing the different provinces concerned and has tried to lay before the House or before the authorities concerned the various grievances which he has felt ought to be brought to the notice of the House. In so far as Delhi is concerned, I should like to say just a few words and no more. Delhi has no provincial Council. It is a sort of orphan which is attached to the Government of India and it rests entirely and absolutely on such nourishment as the Government of India may from time to time grant to it. Now, in so far as the question of representation is concerned, two representatives have been assigned to Delhi, unfortunately on communal lines, though so far we have had nothing to do with representation on communal lines. Now there will be two representatives, one Hindu and the other a Muhammadan for the Federal Assembly and one for the Upper Chamber. The question now is about the method of election. Considering the fact that indirect election is to take place all over the country and considering the fact that Delhi has no provincial Council, I really do not know how the elections will be conducted in Delhi. If it is suggested that the various representatives of the local bodies may elect a representative to the Federal Assembly, I may tell you that the local bodies are four in number. New Delhi, which is entirely nominated, Old Delhi, which is partly nominated and partly elected, the Notified Area Committee, which is entirely nominated and the Fort and Cantonment Area Committee, which is again entirely nominated. Now, I do not know how on earth these nominated members can elect a Member or Members to the Federal Legislature. Therefore, it is quite obvious that these ought to be ruled out entirely. Then I take it that the only method that is left open is by direct election to the Federal

Assembly. This is the only point I should like to bring to the notice of those who are going to deal with this question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does Mr. Satyamurti want to move his next amendment regarding financial enquiry ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Very much.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I understood that there was an arrangement with the Party Opposite that the supplementary grants should be finished tonight. That would be possible if we sit a little later now.

An Honourable Member : Very important questions are involved. They cannot be finished today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does any Honourable Member from the Government Benches want to speak on the motion of Mr. Satyamurti which has been discussed ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I do not press this cut motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does the Honourable Member ask for leave to withdraw this motion ?

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Yes, Sir.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Special Financial Inquiry—General Policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I move :

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

I wish to discuss the general policy of the Sir Otto Niemeyer Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Motion moved .

“ That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 26th September, 1935

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